

THE ILLUSTRATED
SPORTING & DRAMATIC
NEWS

No. 170.—VOL. VII.

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1877.

[REGISTERED FOR
TRANSMISSION ABROAD.]

PRICE SIXPENCE.
By Post 6½d.



MDLLE. EMILIA CHIOMI.

RAILWAYS.

MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD, AND LINCOLNSHIRE RAILWAY.

YORK RACES.

GREAT NORTHERN HANDICAP DAY.

On TUESDAY, 15th May, a Cheap Fast Excursion to YORK (by the quickest and direct route) will run as under:—
Sheffield (Vic. Station), dep. 9.20 a.m.; Attercliffe, dep. 9.25 a.m.; Broughton Lane, dep. 9.29 a.m.; Rotherham (Central), dep. 9.40 a.m.; Aldwarke, dep. 9.46; Swinton (M. S. & L.), dep. 9.53; Mexbro', dep. 9.58 a.m.; York, arr. about 11.30.
The Special Train will leave York in returning at 7.0 p.m. the same day.
R. G. UNDERDOWN, General Manager.
London-road Station, Manchester, May, 1877.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.

NEWMARKET RACES—SECOND SPRING MEETING, 15th, 16th, and 17th MAY, 1877.

First, Second, and Third Class Trains will run as under:—		
St. Pancras. dep.	Liverpool Street. dep.	Newmarket. due.
7.33 a.m.	6.0 a.m.	9.55 a.m.
9.15 a.m.	7.35 a.m.	10.45 a.m.
10.15 a.m.	9.10 a.m. (Express)	11.22 a.m.
12.3 noon	10.25 a.m.	2.8 p.m.
2.35 p.m.	11.35 a.m. (Express)	4.57 p.m.
5.15 p.m.	2.40 p.m. (Express)	7.40 p.m.
	4.10 p.m.	
	5.10 p.m. (Express)	

Returning from Newmarket to Liverpool-street at 8.9 a.m., and to Liverpool-street and St. Pancras at 8.59 a.m., and 12.25, 4.22, and 6.15 p.m.
A FIRST-CLASS SPECIAL TRAIN will leave St. Pancras and Liverpool-street on Tuesday and Thursday, 15th and 17th May, at 9.30 a.m.; and return from Newmarket each day one hour after the advertised time of the last race.
A SPECIAL EXPRESS TRAIN (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class) for Newmarket, will leave St. Pancras and Liverpool-street on Monday, May 14th, at 5.5 p.m.
A First, Second, and Third Class SPECIAL TRAIN will leave St. Pancras and Liverpool-street on Tuesday and Thursday, 15th and 17th May, at 8.45 a.m. for Newmarket, returning from Newmarket at 5.45 p.m. on Tuesday, and at 4.30 p.m. on Thursday.
S. SWARBRICK, General Manager.
London, May, 1877.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.

NEWMARKET RACES—SECOND SPRING MEETING.

Special fast trains conveying 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class passengers, at ordinary fares, will run between Cambridge and London as under:—
Tuesday, 15th May. Thursday, 17th May.
London to Cambridge. a.m. Cambridge to London. p.m.
King's Cross* dep. 9.0 Cambridge+ dep. 5.0
Finsbury Park „ 9.8 Finsbury Park arr. 6.15
Cambridge arr. 10.35 King's Cross „ 6.20
* In connection with a Great Eastern train from Cambridge at 10.50 a.m., for Newmarket.
+ In connection with 4.32 p.m. ordinary train, Newmarket to Cambridge.
Ordinary trains leave Cambridge at 4.30 and 7.40 p.m., reaching King's Cross at 5.55 and 9.15 p.m.
First, second, and third class passengers will also be booked from Cambridge to London by return trains.
HENRY OAKLEY, General Manager.
London, King's Cross Station, May, 1877.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

CHEAP EXCURSION TICKETS (3rd class) are issued by certain trains DAILY from Paddington, Westbourne-park, Kensington (Addison-road), Uxbridge-road, Hammersmith, and certain stations on the Metropolitan and District Railways to Windsor, Taplow, Maidenhead, Cookham, Bourne-end, Great Marlow, and HENLEY, available on day of issue only.
On SATURDAYS and SUNDAYS cheap 1st and 2nd class Return Tickets are issued at Paddington and other stations to Windsor and HENLEY, available for return until the following Monday.
CHEAP EXCURSIONS to the WEST OF ENGLAND and WEYMOUTH.—On SATURDAY, May 19th, and afterwards every Saturday until further notice, a SPECIAL FAST EXCURSION TRAIN, for Weston-super-Mare, Clevedon, Bridgwater, Barnstaple, Chard, Tiverton, Exeter, Torquay, Mutfey, North-road, Plymouth, Devonport, Tavistock, Launceston, Falmouth, PENZANCE, and other stations, will leave Paddington at 7.50 a.m.; Kensington (Addison-road), 7.27; Uxbridge-road, 7.30; Hammersmith, 7.35; and Westbourne-park, 7.38 a.m.; passengers return on Monday week or Monday fortnight following the date of departure. Passengers will also be booked at excursion fares to certain stations below Liskeard by the train leaving Paddington at 5.30 a.m. on the days shown.
On SATURDAYS, May 19th and 26th, an EXCURSION TRAIN for Trowbridge, Frome, Yeovil, Dorchester, Weymouth, PORTLAND, and other Stations, will leave Paddington at 12.5 p.m.; Westbourne Park, 12.10; Kensington (Addison-road), 11.57; Hammersmith, 12.3; Uxbridge-road, 12.0; and 1.20 p.m. Passengers return on Monday week or Monday fortnight following date of departure. This Excursion will also run every SATURDAY during June, leaving Paddington at 10.10 a.m., and Reading 11.10 a.m.
For Fares and full particulars, see special bills.
Paddington Terminus. J. GRIERSON, General Manager.

WHITSUNTIDE HOLIDAYS.

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

All Express and Ordinary Return Tickets for distances over ten miles issued on May 18th and five following days, will be available for the Return Journey by any Train of the same description and class up to and including May 24th.
The Cheap Saturday to Monday Tickets, issued on May 19th, will also be available up to and including May 23rd.
This extension of time does not apply to London and Gravesend Cheap Tickets, nor to those between London, Shalford, and Stations to Wellington College inclusive.
WHIT SUNDAY AND MONDAY.—SPECIAL CHEAP EXCURSION TRAINS from London and New Cross to Dover, Folkestone, Shorncliffe, Hythe, Sandgate, Hastings, St. Leonards, Margate, Ramsgate, Canterbury, &c.
Fare for the Double Journey—3s. Third Class. Children, under 12, Half Fares. Also Cheap Return Tickets from Country Stations to the Seaside Stations.
SPECIAL CHEAP TRAINS for Gravesend, Greenwich, Blackheath, &c.
For further particulars see bills, to be had on application at any of the Stations.

SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

TOURISTS OR FAMILY TICKETS, Available for Two Months, at Cheap Return Fares, will be issued on and after May 14, from Waterloo, Vauxhall, Clapham Junction, Chelsea, West Brompton, Kensington, and Hammersmith Stations, to the WEST OF ENGLAND, ILFRACOMBE, Lynton, Westward Ho! Bideford (for Bude, Clovelly, &c.), Barnstaple, Torrington, Lido (for Launceston), Tavistock, PLYMOUTH, Devonport, Okehampton (for Hatherleigh, Hols-worthy, and Bude), Camelford (for Tintagel and Boscastle), Wadebridge, St. Columb, Yeoford (for Chagford), Exeter (for Dawlish, Torquay, Teignmouth, Dartmouth, &c.), Exmouth (for Budleigh Salterton, Sidmouth, Seaton, Axminster (for Lyme Regis and Charmouth), Weymouth, Bourne-mouth, Dorchester, Wareham, or Poole (for Swanage); also to the Channel Islands, Jersey, and Guernsey.
Also for one month to ISLE OF WIGHT, Ryde, Cowes, Newport, Sandown, Shanklin, Ventnor, Lymington, Yarmouth (for Freshwater and Alum Bay), PORTSMOUTH, Southsea, Stokes Bay, Southampton, and Havant (for Hayling Island); and to France, PARIS, Havre, Honfleur (for Trouville, S. Malo, Granville, Caen, and Cherbourg).
Through Tourist Tickets to most of the above favourite localities are also issued via the South-Western Railway, from the principal Stations on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railways.
Trains now run between Willesden Junction and Waterloo, making a through connection with the North-Western system.
For conditions and Tourist Fares see South-Western Railway Time-Table Books for the current month.
Tickets are also obtainable at the West-end Office, 30, Regent-street, Piccadilly Circus (where all information can be had); the City Office, Exeter Building, Arthur-street, West, E.C.; and at Gaze and Son's Office, 142, Strand.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

WHITSUNTIDE EXCURSIONS.

On SATURDAY, May 19th, CHEAP EXCURSIONS will leave Euston at 8.40 a.m.; Chalk Farm, 8.45; Kilburn, 8.50; Clapham Junction, 8.10; Victoria (London, Brighton, and South Coast side), 8.25; also Battersea, Chelsea, West Brompton, Kensington, and Uxbridge-road; Broad-street (City), 8.10; Dalston, 8.15; Highbury and Islington, 8.19; Mansion House, 8.13; Blackfriars, 8.15; Charing-cross, 8.10; Westminster Bridge, 8.21; and Willesden Junction, 9.10, for Carlisle, Penrith, Windermere, Lancaster, Carnforth, Blackpool, Preston, Blackburn, Wigan, Bolton, Birkenhead, Runcorn, Chester, Rhyl, Denbigh, Northwich, Crewe, Nantwich, Hereford, Leominster, Ludlow, Craven Arms, Llanidloes, Montgomery, Newtown, Oswestry, Welshpool, Minsterley, Shrewsbury, Wellington, Newport, and STAFFORD.
From Euston Station, at 12.15 noon; Chalk Farm, 12.20; Kilburn, 12.25; Clapham Junction, 11.23 a.m.; Victoria, 11.23 a.m.; Battersea, 11.38 a.m.; Chelsea, West Brompton, Kensington, and Uxbridge-road, Broad-street, 11.40 a.m.; Dalston, 11.45; Highbury and Islington, 11.49; Mansion House, 11.43; Blackfriars, 11.45; Charing-cross, 11.40; Westminster Bridge, 11.51; and Willesden Junction, 12.30 p.m., for LIVERPOOL, Manchester, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Leicester, Warrington, Stoke, Burslem, Macclesfield, Leamington, Kenilworth, Coventry, Derby, Burton, Lichfield, Tamworth, Leicester, Nuneaton, Stour-valley and South Staffordshire Stations, Buxton, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Stockport, and the Yorkshire District. Returning on Monday, May 21st, or Thursday, May 24th.
On WHIT-MONDAY, May 21st, a CHEAP EXCURSION will also leave Euston Station at 6.45 a.m.; Chalk Farm, 6.50 a.m., for Birmingham, Coventry, Leamington, Kenilworth, Dudley, Walsall, Wednesbury, and WOLVERHAMPTON. Returning the same evening at Day Trip Fares, or on Thursday, May 24th, at the higher fares.
For fares and full particulars see Bills, to be obtained at any of the stations, the various parcels receiving offices, and at Gaze's Tourist Office, 142, Strand.
G. FINDLAY.
Chief Traffic Manager's Office, Euston Station, May, 1877.

BOMBAY.—ANCHOR LINE.—Direct

route to India. Fortnightly sailings.—First-class steamers, fitted up expressly for the trade. Qualified surgeons and stewardesses carried.
From Glasgow. From Liverpool.
EUROPA Saturday, June 2 Wednesday, June 6.
ITALIA Saturday, June 23 Wednesday, June 27.
INDIA Saturday, July 21 Wednesday, July 25.
First-class, 50 guineas. Sail punctually as advertised. Apply for berths or handbooks to Henderson Brothers, Union-street, Glasgow, and 17, Water-street, Liverpool; J. W. Jones, Chapel-walk, Manchester; Grindlay and Co., 55, Parliament-street, S.W.; and Henderson Brothers 19, Leadenhall-street, E.C.

OXFORD AND BACK.—The Passenger

Steamer "ISIS" leaves KINGSTON, EVERY MONDAY, at 11.45, for WINDSOR, READING, OXFORD, and HENLEY, staying one night at each place. Fare, 20s. single; 30s. return; intermediate 3d. per mile.—Agent, Kingston, A. Moreau, Queen's-road.

THEATRES.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—MR.

JOSEPH JEFFERSON will appear in the character of RIP VAN WINKLE at 8.0 o'clock THIS EVENING, and until further notice. Commence at 7.0 o'clock with A QUIET FAMILY. Mr. H. Jackson and Miss Fannie Leslie. At 8.0 o'clock the popular drama of RIP VAN WINKLE. To conclude with at 10.30, SYLVESTER DAGGERWOOD. Prices from 1s. to 5s. Doors open at 6.30; commence at 7.0. Box-office open from 10.0 to 5.0 daily.

ROYAL ADELPHI THEATRE.—

Sole Proprietor, B. Webster. Sole Lessee and Manager, F. B. Chatterton. On Monday and during the week at 7.30 PEEP O' DAY, OR SAVOIRNEEN DELISH, Mr. Edmund Falconer, Messrs. S. Emery, H. Sinclair, W. McIntyre, J. G. Shore, F. Moreland, H. Evans, W. S. Parkes, W. H. Day, C. J. Smith, &c., Mesdames E. Stuart, Hudspeth, Lovell, &c. Preceded by the RENDEZVOUS. To conclude with Children's Pantomime GOODY TWO SHOES.—Doors open at 6.30. Commence at 6.45. Box Office open from 10 till 5 daily.

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.—

Lessee and Manager Mr. J. B. Buckstone. Last nights of THE PALACE OF TRUTH. EVERY EVENING, at 7.30 the comedy in three acts THE SERIOUS FAMILY. Messrs. Buckstone, Howe, Herbert. Mesdames Annie Lafontaine, M. Terry, Chippendale, Harriss, &c. After which at 9.0, a fairy Comedy by W. S. Gilbert, Esq., entitled THE PALACE OF TRUTH. Mr. Buckstone; Messrs. Howe, Herbert, Braid, Everill, Clark. Mrs. Chippendale, Mesdames Marion Terry, K. Irwin, E. Dietz, and Miss Annie Lafontaine. Concluding with TOM NODDY'S SECRET. Doors open at 7.

THEATRE ROYAL, LYCEUM.

Lessee and Manager Mrs. Bateman. This theatre will be closed for rehearsals five nights, re-opening on Saturday night, 19th inst., when will be produced THE LYONS MAIL, a version of "Le Courier de Lyon," in which Mr. Henry Irving will appear in the dual characters of Lesurquet, the victim, and Dubosc, the robber. Box plan open on Monday, May 14.

FOLLY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager,

Mr. ALEX. HENDERSON. Every Evening at Half-past Seven, THE CHIMNEY CORNER: (Last Week) Lionel Brough, Miss Emily Duncan. At 8.45, an entirely new and fanciful extravaganza, entitled OXYGEN; OR, GAS IN BURLESQUE METRE, by Messrs. Reece and Farnie; supported by Miss Lydia Thompson, Mesdames Ella Chapman, Marie Williams, Emily Duncan, Rozie Lowe, Harriet Coveney, Merville, Cartnew, and Violet Cameron. Messrs. Lionel Brough, Willie Edouin, Day, and Nelson. Whitsuntide, OXYGEN re-constructed and a new comedy. —Acting-Manager, Mr. J. C. Scanlan.

FOLLY THEATRE.—WHITSUNTIDE

HOLIDAYS. Special re-construction of OXYGEN, with new music and effects together with other novelties, of which due notice will be given.

CRITERION THEATRE.—Lessee and

Manager, Mr. ALEX. HENDERSON. Every Evening, at 7.30, the serio-comic drama, in two acts, by John Oxenford, Esq., entitled THE PORTER'S KNOT. Sampson Burr, Mr. John Clarke. At 8.45, THE PINK DOMINOS, a new farcical comedy, in three acts, by James Albery; supported by Charles Wyndham, Standing, Ashley, A. Harris, J. Clarke, Wyatt. Mesdames Fanny Josephs, Eastlake, M. Davis, Bruce, and Clermont. Acting Manager, Mr. H. J. Hitchens.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.—Lessees

Messrs. D. James and T. Thorne. ENORMOUS SUCCESS OF OUR BOYS. Every Evening, at 7.30, A WHIRLIGIG; at 8, the most successful comedy, OUR BOYS, written by H. J. Byron, (750th and following nights). Concluding with A FEARFUL FOG; supported by Messrs. William Farren, David James, C. W. Garthorne, J. P. Bernard, W. Lestock, A. Austin and Thomas Thorne. Mesdames Amy Roselle, Kate Bishop, Nellie Walters, Cicely Richards, Sophie Larkin, &c. Acting Manager, Mr. D. McKay.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Mr. Hare,

Lessee and Manager.—Every Evening, punctually at Eight o'clock, NEW MEN AND OLD ACRES, written by Tom Taylor and A. W. Dubourg. The principal characters will be acted by Miss Ellen Terry, Mrs. Gaston Murray, Mrs. Stephens, Miss Kate Aubrey; Mr. Kelly, Mr. Anson, Mr. Conway, Mr. Cathcart, Mr. Ersser Jones, and Mr. Hare. The new scenery painted by Messrs. Gordon and Harford.—Doors open at 7.30. Box-office hours 11 to 5.—No fees for booking. Acting-Manager, Mr. John Huy.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Mr. Henry Neville, Sole Lessee. Great success of the famous nautical drama, THE SCUTTLED SHIP, by Charles Reade, with new scenery and effects by Mr. W. Hann. Every Evening, at 7.30, THE SCUTTLED SHIP. Mr. Henry Neville; Messrs. C. Ashford, Elwood, Artaud, Avondale, Warren, Bauer, Culver, Byatt, Railemond, Forbes Robertson, and R. Pateman; Mrs. Seymour, Misses Agnes Bennett, and Bella Pateman. Doors open at 7, commence at 7.30. Box-office hours 11 to 5. No booking fees. Prices from 1s. to 5s. 3s. No free list.

EVANS'S MUSIC AND SUPPER ROOMS, COVENT GARDEN.

OLD ENGLISH, SCOTCH, IRISH, AND WELSH GLEES, AND CHORUSES, By EVANS'S CELEBRATED CHOIR OF BOYS (under the direction of Mr. F. JONGHMANS), and the best available Comic Talent. OPEN AT EIGHT.
Admission, One Shilling. Private Boxes, One Guinea.
A SUPPER ROOM FOR LADIES NOW OPEN.
Proprietor J. BARNES-AMOR.

ROYAL STRAND THEATRE.

Sole Lessee and Manager, MRS. SWANBOROUGH.—This and Every Evening at 7.45, MAMMON. Messrs. Cox, Grahame, and W. H. Vernon, &c. Misses F. Hughes, Taylor, and Ada Swanborough. TOODLES. Mr. John S. Clarke. And TRIAL BY JURY. Messrs. Marius, Leitch, &c. Miss Venne, &c.

GLOBE THEATRE.—Monday, May 14th and

Every Evening during the week at 7.30 (last six nights) will be performed the successful drama EAST LYNNE in which MISS LOUISE MOODIE will appear as Lady Carlyle. Followed at 10 o'clock by VESTA'S TEMPLE.

Mr. W. J. Hill in his original character of GUMMIDGE. Prices from 6d. to 5s. 3s. Box-office open daily from 11 to 5.—Acting Manager, Mr. Douglas Cox.

ROYAL GRECIAN THEATRE, City-road.—

SOLE PROPRIETOR—MR. GEORGE CONQUEST. NOTICE.—A Morning Performance of the New Drama by Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Henry Pettitt, entitled DURING HER MAJESTY'S PLEASURE will take place on Whit Monday at 2 o'clock. Every Evening at 7 o'clock, the drama by Messrs. Paul Meritt and Henry Pettitt, entitled BRITISH BORN. Characters by Messrs. W. James, Sennett, Syms, Vincent, Nicholls, Grant, &c.; Misses E. Miller, Victor, Denvil &c. After which the screaming farce of WE ALL HAVE OUR LITTLE FAULTS, in which Mr. Geo. Conquest will appear. To conclude with the Favourite Drama of the SCAMPS OF LONDON. Dancing on the new Platform. The grounds brilliantly illuminated.—Acting Manager, Mr. Alphonse Roques.

BRITANNIA THEATRE, HOXTON.—Sole

Proprietress, Mrs. S. Lane.—Every Evening, (Wednesday excepted) at 6.45, WATCH DOG, Messrs. Mathew; and Blanchard and the dog Wallace. Messrs. Drayton, Bigwood, Lewis. Mdles. Summers, Pettifer. Followed by MOLLY SULLIVAN, Mrs. S. Lane. Mdles. Brewer, Rayner. Messrs. Rhoyds, Jackson. Concluding (Monday and Tuesday only) with JEWESS AND CHRISTIAN by E. Manuel, Esq. Messrs. Reynolds, J. B. Howe, Newbound, Mdles. Adams, Bellair. (Thursday, Friday, Saturday), UNCLE TOM'S CABIN. Wednesday, Mr. Jackson's benefit.

ST. JAMES'S HALL, PICCADILLY.

THE MOORE AND BURGESS MINSTRELS

NEW PROGRAMME having proved the Greatest Success of the Season WILL BE REPEATED EVERY NIGHT at 8. MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS and SATURDAYS at 3 also. Doors open for the Day Performances at 2.30; for the Evening ditto at 7.15. Fauteuils, 5s.; Sofa Stalls, 3s. and 2s.; Gallery, 1s. No fees. No Charge for programmes.

NEW MUSICAL SKETCH AND NEW SECOND PART.

MR. AND MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT, TWO POSTER BROTHERS, by Gilbert A'Beckett, music by A. Cellier. After which, A New Musical Sketch by Mr. Corney Grain, entitled EDWIN AND ANGELINA, and "No. 204," by F. C. Burnand, music by German Reed. Mrs. German Reed, Miss Fanny Holland, Miss Leonora Braham, Mr. Corney Grain, Mr. A. Law, and Mr. Alfred Reed. Every Evening, except Thursday and Saturday at 8; morning representations every Thursday and Saturday at 3. Admission, 1s., 2s.; Stalls, 3s. and 5s. Can be secured in advance, without fee. Twice on Whit Monday (Bank Holiday) at 3 and 8.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL, LANGHAM-PLACE, OXFORD-CIRCUS.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Week ending May 19,

1877. TUESDAY, MAY 15th. Play under direction of Mr. Charles Wyndham. THURSDAY, „ 17th. Play, INGOMAR. Mr. Creswick's Farewell Performance. SATURDAY, „ 19th. Performance of EURIPIDES' ALCESTIS, with new music by Henry Gadsby. Inspection of the 1st Surrey Artillery Volunteers by H.S.H. the Duke of Teck, and Presentation of Prizes by H.R.H. the Duchess of Teck. Monday to Friday, One Shilling; Saturday, Half-a-Crown, or by Season Ticket.

ROYAL AQUARIUM, WESTMINSTER.

Pleasantest lounge in London, wet or dry, cold or warm. Most accessible resort in London. Faces Westminster Abbey. Open 11 a.m. till 11 p.m. ZAZEL daily at 5.15 and 10.15. An enormous success. Novelty of the season. The Hindoo Snake Charmers and Conjurers, Thrice daily, 2, 6, and 9. H. J. Byron's CYRIL'S SUCCESS, most successful comedy, in five acts, every afternoon at 2.45 precisely. Visitors paying full price to the theatre (gallery excepted) admitted free to the Aquarium in time to see Zazel. Variety entertainment in Large Hall every afternoon. Vocal and Instrumental Concert every evening, at 8. Followed by Special Variety Entertainment. Admission, ONE SHILLING.

MISS VIOLA DACRE, on Tour, Theatre

Royal, Whitehaven. Six Nights, "Juliet," "Rosalind," "Violet" (Grimaldi), "Lillian Vavasour," "Clara Douglas."

WHITSUN HOLIDAYS.—ZOOLOGICAL

GARDENS, REGENT'S-PARK.—ADMISSION SIXPENCE, every day in Whitsun Week except on Saturday.

THE LONDON ATHLETIC CLUB.

At the SECOND SPRING MEETING of the above club, to be held at the club grounds, Stamford Bridge, Fulham, this day Saturday, May 12, the following events will be open to amateurs:—
Long jump (two prizes)
Putting the Stone (two prizes)
Throwing the Hammer (two prizes)
Boxing, light weights (two prizes)
Do. middle weights (two prizes)
Do. heavy weights (two prizes)
High Jump (two prizes)
Tug of War (two prizes)
Four Miles Bicycle Handicap (three prizes). Entries close April 28.
Fouls (two prizes). Entries close April 28.
Single-sticks (two prizes). Entries close April 28.
Entries for these events, accompanied by the name of club, colours, and entrance-fee, 2s. 6d. (P.O.O.) each race, to be sent to the Hon. Sec., Wm. Waddell, 11, St. Mary Abbott's-terrace, Kensington, W. Entries close April 28. The committee reserve the right of refusing any entry.

HURLINGHAM CLUB, 1877.

PROGRAMME FOR MAY. SHOOTING: Saturday (May 12, This Day).—Optional Stakes, 26 yards. Annual General Meeting at Hurlingham, 2.30 p.m. Monday, May 14.—Handicap. Optional Stakes. £15 Cup or Specie. Saturday, May 19.—Twenty-seven Yards Optional Stakes. Monday, May 21.—Handicap £2 or £5 Stakes. £15 Cup or Specie. Saturday, May 26.—Opening of Rhododendron Show, Shooting at Handicap Distance. Band. Monday, May 28.—Derby £5 Handicap. £25 Cup or Specie.

POLO:

Saturday, May 12th.—Hurlingham v. International Club, 4 p.m. The Committee reserve to themselves the right of altering this Programme. Alterations (if any) will appear in the Sporting Papers.

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NEXT WEEK'S NUMBER

ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS,

WILL CONTAIN,

Amongst a variety of other illustrations, a portrait of Miss Grace Armitage; Mr. Vernon, in *Mammon*; Her Majesty's Commission on the West Coast of Africa; a drawing by J. Sturgess, &c.

THE DERBY NUMBER

OF THE

Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News

Will be published on the morning of the 30th instant (The Derby Day).

This Number will be largely illustrated by prominent artists, and will be replete with matter appropriate to the race for the "Blue Riband."

EPSOM TOWN ON THE DERBY MORNING,

A Double-page Coloured Picture, by JOHN STURGESS, will be given away with this Number.

Advertisements should reach the Publisher not later than the 26th instant.

THE GRANDEST FLOWER SHOW OF THE SEASON.

FIRST SUMMER SHOW OF

ROSES, AZALEAS, ORCHIDS, PELARGONIUMS, HEATHS, STOVE AND GREENHOUSE PLANTS, FINE-FOLIAGED PLANTS, NEW AND RARE PLANTS, &c.

AT

ORLEANS HOUSE, TWICKENHAM.

ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MAY 25TH AND 26TH, 1877.

FOR WHICH WILL BE AWARDED

£350 IN PRIZES.

ON AND AFTER 21ST MAY,

THE BOXHILL COACH, Formerly the DORKING COACH, will leave daily HATCHETT'S, PICCADILLY, 10.45 a.m., by Clapham, Balham, Merton, Ewell, Epsom, Leatherhead, MICKLEHAM, to BURFORD BRIDGE HOTEL, BOXHILL, arriving there 1.30 p.m. Leaving there again 4 p.m., Arriving, Piccadilly, 6.45 p.m.

Fares—Single Journey, 7s.; Return, 12s. Box Seat, Single Journey, 9s. 6d.; Return, 16s. Parcels at moderate rates. Passengers' luggage free.

FROM "THE BAZAAR" NOVELTIES.

"MESSRS. JAY have as great an assortment of black and half mourning materials as if they had all the colours of the rainbow at their command. Grey, or black and white, while essential for those who are in half mourning, are always, and especially this year, much affected by those who like quiet unobtrusive dresses."

MESSRS. JAY, of Regent-street, are so celebrated for the splendid COSTUMES they turn out, and the style of their Millinery Show Rooms, that there is a popular belief that this house is beyond the use of ordinary mortals' purses. This is quite groundless, and I consider their woollen mourning materials the cheapest that can be had anywhere, and the prices within the reach of all those who are not so ill-advised as to invest in common stuff. They keep Albert crêpe, which is thought to wear fairly well, at 2s. 6d. yard; the best fourfold crêpe is 15s. yard, but none need wish one of better quality and richness than their exclusive standard crêpe at 8s. 9d.

IN BLACK GOODS there are many welcome additions. None but those condemned to wear black during the hot months, can tell the comfort of getting stuffs that will not be inconsistent with crêpe trimming, and yet be at least semi-transparent. Crêpe grenadine can be worn in very deep mourning, and yet, being silk and wool mixed it has a bright epingle look. It is infinitely prettier than any other grenadine, and, though when heavily crêpe trimmed it is suited to any mourning, yet, if silk be used with it, it makes a handsome ordinary dress.

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Prices £1 to £1,000.
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SHORTLY WILL BE READY,

PRECIOUS STONES AND GEMS,

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS OF

GEMS IN THEIR ROUGH OR NATIVE STATE.

By EDWIN W. STREETER.

CHAPMAN AND HALL, PICCADILLY, LONDON.

THE ILLUSTRATED Sporting and Dramatic News.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1877.

CIRCULAR NOTES.

On Saturday afternoon last, the miners of Lintz Green held what the local press calls "their annual gala." We are doubtful as to the exact locality of Lintz Green, but

suspect it to be one of those Arcadian spots which the gentle pitmen of Durham and Northumberland are in the habit of patronising when they chance to be sportively inclined. "Amongst the 'sports' provided was what was described as a game-cock contest, being a race between a game cock and a number of lads. Each competitor had his hands fastened together behind, and the winner was required to seize the bird with his teeth and throw it over his head. Twenty-two boys started. Several of the lads caught the bird between their knees, and, seizing it with their teeth, threw it over their heads; but as the conditions specified that nothing except the mouth was to be used in the capture, the bird was again set at liberty. After a chase of twenty minutes, during which time the bird had been captured about a dozen times, a lad, named Charles Nevins, aged sixteen, son of a butcher, succeeded in 'catching' the bird by the comb, and was declared the winner. The poor bird used its talons vigorously, and several of the lads had their faces scratched. The winner's face was covered with blood, and the bird, although sorely mangled and bleeding, was carried off the field alive." We are indebted to the *Newcastle Daily Chronicle* for these disgusting particulars, and it is due to that excellent journal to say that it not only condemns with proper severity the revolting "sport," but expresses a hope that the police will lose no time in putting it down.

STERN death may come to lay thee low,

With step most sure and stealthy;

Then fall into our ranks, my friend,

Whilst thou art strong and healthy;—

Is the concluding quatrain of an invitation to become a Forester, written by a Rogate bard. We scarcely know which is the more deserving of admiration, the large-hearted benevolence of the poet's sentiments, or his guarded style of expression. "Stern death may come to lay thee low"—there is a doubt about the matter, but it may—so do become a Forester!

THE new ballet at the Canterbury is a most sumptuous and artistic production. What a wonderful danseuse Pitteri is! She cannot weigh less than fourteen stone we should imagine, yet she moves with marvellous grace and the lightness of a feather. There are other dancers more vivacious and peculiar, more bewitching, but for pure classical perfection of style the Pitteri is unrivalled.

WE quote the following very fine sonnet from *Yorick*, because it is so much above the ordinary level of "periodical" poetry as to demand extended recognition:—

FALSE!

Can there be bitterer than this,—

That she, whose sweet lips but a year ago

Touched yours in their fresh virgin kiss;

Whose soft, small hand your own alone might press,

Or linger o'er with passionate caress;

For whom 't would be a little thing to throw

'E'en life into the unknown, great abyss—

Now seeks not, heeds not of the love she won

From him whose worship, stronger than the sun,

Burns fierce, and deep, and silent in a heart

Too long asleep to like or love in part;

That to another mouth her own may cling,

List to his wooing words, and share his bliss.

Can hell, with all its ways of punishing,

Show braver punishment than this?

"A GROGMEN'S BANQUET" is the *Liverpool Argus's* euphemism for the dinner of the Licensed Victuallers' Society, at which feast his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales presided. The *Argus* is ruder even than the Executive of the United Kingdom Alliance, which denominated the banquet "a Publican's Dinner."

THE pious founder of the Co-Operative Bank, Richard Banner Oakley, has come to the front again in an unexpected way. Or rather his "estate" has. The latter is about to pay the gorgeous dividend of 2d. in the pound.

MR. MACDONALD, M.P., must be a very terrible person. He recently attended a meeting of colliers and iron-workers at Wednesbury, and (if we are to credit a journal that represents the manufacturing interest) "gave one of his destructive lectures, replete with advice to the men, which, if carried out, will utterly ruin the trade of this country."

THOSE scientific people make everything so clear! Professor Shepard, of Amherst College, U.S., has examined a fragment of the meteor which passed over the American Continent on December 21. The specimen, which weighs about three-quarters of a pound, was found at Rochester, Fulton County, Ind., by Mr. A. J. Norris. This is the Professor's verdict:—"The fragment strongly suggests the idea that the pisiform globules were produced by the sudden fusion of what was originally a chladnitic material amid particles of chamasite attended by access of oxygen, whereby the silicate of magnesia became converted into the more fusible double silicate of magnesia and iron." Thank you, Professor.

Now that the East wind is "laid" we can read the *Drapers' and Milliners' Gazette of Fashion* with comfort. Gentle spring is with us at last. Winter is discarded from her lap. We discard the clothing appropriate only to an old-fashioned Christmas, and not thinking at all of milliners' bills—avaunt such mercenary considerations!—dip into the prophetic pages of the *Milliners' Gazette*. "The corset continues to be a hard question to answer." Well, it always was. "Ladies do not like to be imprisoned all through the day in the long corsets which have become indispensable with the present style of dress." If ladies object to such imprisonment, why don't they organise a rebellion against it? But to continue:—"And to change the corset with each costume is also too tedious. For this reason the short corset has resumed its old sway: it is so comfortable. Then when a tight Princess costume is to be worn, or a long cuirasse, the Ceinture Parisienne is

added to the dress, which then confines the hips and lower part of the figure into the smallest possible dimensions. These ceintures are not fastened to the corset like the Jeanne d'Arc ceinture. They are worn over all the underskirts, so as to conceal their plaits, if there be any. And as these only cost three to four francs, everyone who is, or thinks she is, a little too slow, will certainly avail herself of this novelty. Instead, also, of wearing the ceinture over the skirts, the skirts may be tacked to the ceinture; but the two are better distinct." And so adieu for the present to the philosopher of the *Milliners' Gazette*.

COMING EVENTS.

DRAMATIC.

Miss Bateman takes her benefit at the Lyceum to-day (Saturday). *The Maid and the Mill*, an old burlesque, is shortly to be revived at the Strand Theatre.

After next season, Mr. Chatterton retires from Drury Lane.

The Gaiety season, which will close on the 19th inst., recommences on the 6th of August.

Mr. George Clarke returns to America in July.

Miss Marion Terry will accompany Mr. Buckstone on his tour.

Mr. Irving's adaptation of *Richard III.* is to be produced at the Theatre Royal, Jersey.

The French Plays begin on the 21st inst.

Miss Camille Dubois will join the Strand Company next season.

Miss T. Marshall will shortly reappear.

Mr. W. H. Fisher and Mr. Harcourt have been engaged for the Globe.

Miss E. Farren's benefit takes place on the 16th inst.

The Lyceum season closes to-day (Saturday), and will reopen with Charles Reade's *Courier of Lyons*.

Sanger's Amphitheatre will open on the 19th inst., with Mr. Felix Roger's Company.

MUSICAL.

A grand morning concert will be given at Grosvenor House, by kind permission, on the 17th inst., for the benefit of the North Wales, City of Chester, and Border Counties' training ship *Clio* for homeless and destitute boys.

An Operette, in three acts, by MM. Chiot, Daru, and Offenbach, will be produced, next winter at the Foliés Dramatiques.

M. Gounod's *Cinq Mars*, recently described and illustrated in our columns, will be revived in November next.

CRICKET.

The first great Match of the season on the Marylebone Club programme, viz.—M.C.C. and Ground v. England, is fixed for Monday next and following days; while on Thursday and two subsequent days the M.C.C. and Ground antagonise Cambridge University, at Cambridge.

ATHLETICS.

With a view, doubtless, of finding out their best representatives for the return match against England, on May 26, at L.A.C. Grounds, Stamford Bridge, Fulham, the Irish Championship Sports are arranged to take place at Dublin, on Saturday, May 19.

AQUATICS.

The opening cruise of the Forth Yacht Club is to be held on Saturday, May 12th, starting from Granton at 2 p.m. punctually. Three Corinthian Matches, are fixed for Saturday, 9th June, at 2 p.m., viz.—for Yachts over 10 Tons; for Yachts of 5 and not exceeding 10 Tons; and for Pleasure Boats not exceeding 23 feet length at Load-Water Line.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the 14th inst., the Hurlingham Club Optional Stakes Handicap £15 (cup or money) will be contested, and on the 19th, the 27 yards Optional Stakes.

HACKNEY CHORAL ASSOCIATION.

THIS old-established choir held their third and last concert for the present season, at the Town Hall, Shoreditch, on Monday evening, the 7th instant, when Signor Randegger's cantata, "Fridolin," was performed. This beautiful work, although so successful in Birmingham, Norwich, and other provincial towns, was heard in London for the first time only in December last. Mr. Ebenezer Prout, B.A., one of our best English musicians, is the conductor, and it is due to his energetic leadership, that the choir has attained its present excellence. The music of the heroine was admirably sung by Mrs. Osgood, who, we understand, gave her services gratuitously. Her kindness was gracefully recognised by the committee, who deputed Mr. Prout to present her with a handsome ring. Mrs. Osgood's beautiful soprano voice was heard to great advantage in the air "No bliss can be so great," also in the duet with Fridolin and the quartet "With anxious foreboding." The other parts were ably sustained by Messrs. W. Shakespeare, George Fox, and Henry Pope, who sang their music with great taste and feeling. Great praise is due to the choir for their excellent rendering of the choruses, that for female voices "Calmly flow the equal hours," being unanimously re-demanded, but the encore was firmly resisted by Mr. Prout. A word of praise is also due to the band, which under the baton of Mr. Prout was equal to the occasion. Altogether the excellent choir is to be congratulated on the successes they have achieved, and may thus be encouraged to persevere in their earnest endeavours to cultivate a greater taste for good music.

THE members of the East Kent Gun Club held their second meeting of the present season on Wednesday at Old Park Farm, near Canterbury. The weather favoured the sport, consequently there was a very good attendance, both of members and the outside public. The principal event competed for was the Challenge Cup, which was shot for for the fourth time, Mr. G. B. Solly winning it on the first occasion, Captain Austen took it the second time, and Mr. A. Beer, secretary of the club, won it on the last occasion. Sixteen entries were obtained.

ON the 5th inst. the Orleans Club opening dinner took place. Amongst those present were—Duke of Beaufort, Sir H. J. Tuf-ton, Bart., Sir J. Astley, Bart., M.P., H.E. the Count Münster, Count Dönhoff, Earl of March, M.P., Viscount Newry, H. Edwards, M.P., Colonel Gipps, Captain the Hon. A. Graves, Captain Whitmore, A. Pemberton. The newly opened grounds, of nearly 40 acres, contain excellent stabling for 80 horses. The old library has been converted into a famous billiard room, the table in which is one of admirable quality, executed in carved oak by the well-known maker Thurston. The walls of the handsome drawing and reception room are richly decorated with violet and crimson satin, as fitted by the Duc d'Aumale, and are in excellent condition.

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S YACHT CLUB sailed a match on Wednesday, which produced some very good racing between Sunshine and Butterfly and between Dudu and Torch. The Lily had it all her own way with the other 10-tonners, and would certainly have taken second if not first prize had she not lost her topmast. At twelve o'clock all the yachts started, Zephyr getting first away. The wind was light, from about S. by E., and all had jibheaded topsails set except Sunshine, Butterfly, and Zephyr, which set square headers. With the wind falling light the yachts reached along the Blyth Sands, Sunshine gaining on Butterfly, but as the breeze freshened the latter drew away again. Lily, which had been sailing well, lost her topmast in Fidler's Reach. The timing at the finish was:—Sunshine (winner of £25), 6h. 51m. 42s.; Butterfly (winner of £10), 6h. 54m. 22s.; Dudu, 7h. 6m. 33s.; Torch, 7h. 7m. 37s.; Lily, 7h. 14m. 52s.; Mildred, 7h. 29m. 22s.; Zephyr, 7h. 42m. The Lily thus lost the second prize by a few seconds only, after sailing a wonderfully good race. The Queen of the Thames steamer accompanied the racing yachts, with the members of the club and their friends on board, and a very pleasant day was passed.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE SKIN, Leicester-square, W.C.—(Out-patients treated daily at 2; also on Mondays at 9 a.m., and Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m.); 399 in and out-patients (of which 69 were new cases), were under treatment during the week ending May 5.

Recollections of the Hunting Season Eastern Counties

Notes with the Spottesham Harrier

Hoik the 'em
geet the 'em
Back the 'em
TRUMPPE-TER!



Lunch time.



THE MASTER.



THE WHIP.



FROM THE RECTORY.



On the footpath



Gone away!!!



"THE CAPTIVE"



LIVELY a note after lunch.

come away 'Neddy wants to go too



Yes Sir it be
10 miles back
there that it be

pleasent after running all day



Hinder they
come



AT THE TOP OF A HILL AFTER A SHARP BURST UP IT.

PIGEON SHOOTING.

THE HURLINGHAM CLUB.

Although the weather on Saturday was extremely cold and uncomfortable, the shooting enclosure was tolerably well attended, the chief event for decision being an Optional Sweepstakes at handicap distances, and for which 14 members competed, at six birds each. Mr. Thorold won without a tie.

The following were not called up after the first round:—Mr. Aubrey Coventry, Captain Walter Duncombe, Mr. E. Larking, Sir Charles Mordaunt, Sir George Leith, Mr. E. Cunliffe, Mr. Otho, and Mr. C. E. Parker.

Mr. Thorold won £14 of the Optional Fund. Three £1 sweepstakes were also shot off. Mr. Coulthurst and Captain Laing divided the first, Captain Duncombe and Mr. Coulthurst the second, and Mr. B. Wilson and Captain Laing shared the third. The birds were fast, and some pretty seconds were made during the afternoon.

In the polo park there was some excellent play, the competitors being Sir Charles Wolsley, Mr. A. Murietta, Lord Churston, Mr. Cecil Lord, Sir Bache Cunard, Mr. Jameson, Mr. E. Baldock, and Captain Yeldham.

On Saturday (to-day) the annual general meeting will be held at the Club House, Hurlingham, after which the first important polo match of the season will take place. A team of the Hurlingham Club will meet one from the International Gun and Polo Club, and as the respective players are first-class men, the best exhibition of the game ever seen may be fully anticipated.

The Club House, lawn, gardens, and enclosures are in beautiful order.

These grounds were well attended on Monday, when twenty-eight members shot for a cup at six birds each, 28 yards rise. Mr. Otho, the only competitor who killed six, won the prize and £56 of the optional entrance fund.

GUN CLUB, NOTTING-HILL.

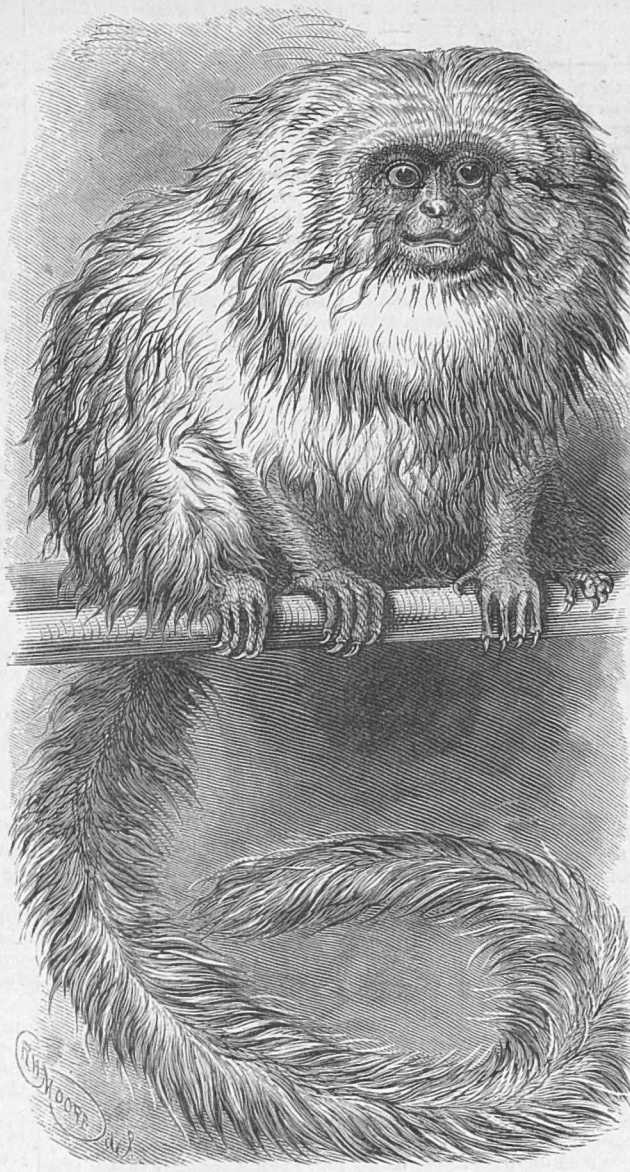
THERE was a capital attendance at the club grounds on Wormwood Scrubs, on Saturday afternoon, when the event in the programme for decision was a 27 yards' sweepstakes, of £5 each, nine birds each, for a £20 cup, and for which there were twenty-one subscribers. Some excellent scores were made, and on the termination of the ninth round a tie was declared between Mr. "Booth" (an assumed name of a good shot) and Captain T. S. Starkey, each having killed nine. On shooting off, Mr. "Booth" added two more to his score, and won the first prize (£75 and the cup), Captain Starkey securing the second money (£25) by bringing down 10 out of 11. Mr. Clark and Mr. "Bruin," having each killed eight, had next to shoot off for the third prize (£5), which they ultimately divided, after grassing 16 out of 18. Mr. "Booth" shot with a central-fire breechloader, made by S. Grant, of St. James's-street.

Mr. "Booth" and Captain T. S. Starkey having killed all their birds, shot off the ties for the first prize—bird for bird: Mr. "Booth" (first prize, £75, and £20 cup) 11; Captain T. S. Starkey (second prize, £25) 10.

Mr. C. O. Clark and Mr. "Bruin," having killed eight each out of nine, shot off the ties for the third prize—bird for bird: Mr. C. O. Clark 111111110; Mr. "Bruin" 111111110; Mr. Clark and Mr. "Bruin" divided the "fiver" after killing sixteen each out of eighteen.

Two £1 sweepstakes at three birds each were also decided, the first, with fourteen competitors, being won by Captain Shelley, after grassing eight; and the second, with twenty-one subscribers, was secured by Colonel Longfield, who also killed eight.

On Tuesday there was a good attendance, and in the early part of the day a match of an international character took place between Mr. I. A. Paine and Mr. H. S. Jaffray, who represented America, against Mr. Dudley Ward and Captain



THE NEW MONKEY AT THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

(Drawn the exact size of life.)

Shelley for England. They had agreed to shoot at 25 birds, 28 yards rise, for £100, and, as will be seen on reference to the appended score, the Englishmen won easily, mainly through the shooting of Mr. Dudley Ward, who killed no fewer than 22. Subsequently the new Challenge Cup was shot for in an optional handicap sweepstakes at five birds, and ultimately Mr. Berkeley Lucy became the holder, beating in the ties Captain Shelley,

Captain Leighton, Mr. H. Rae Read, and Colonel Browne. The winner will have to hold it against all comers for two seasons ere it becomes his own property. There are already two or three challenges, and one of the matches will have to take place within a week. Mr. Berkeley Lucy shot with a beautiful gun built by Stephen Grant.

The following missed their second birds:—Mr. A. Coventry (27yds.), Mr. Daniels (27yds.), Mr. Booth (27 yds.), Mr. Gambier (26½yds.), Mr. Parker (26yds.), Mr. W. S. Salting (27yds.) Mr. S. Shirley (27yds.).

Those who missed their first birds and retired were Lord Stormont (28yds.), Mr. Dudley Ward (29yds.), and Mr. Fraser (27yds.).

LYCIDAS.

ONE of the saddest things we have known for a long time, is the sudden and swift death of Val. Bromley, which took place on Monday, in last week. Young, handsome, happy in his home life, prosperous in his high profession, he has been struck down on the threshold of a career in which there seemed the certain prospect of his writing his name in large letters. Bromley was of an artists' race, his great grandfather having been an Academy Associate early in the century, and his father, to whom he was indebted for his art training, being a well-known member of the Society of British Artists. He had, himself, been an Associate of the Institute since he was nineteen, and was one of the most rapid and fruitful designers in London. His picture in last year's Academy, one of the results of his travels in Western America with Earl Dunraven, many people will remember. He is this year represented by "The Fairy Ring;" but the Council did not hang what many of his friends, and what he himself, regarded as his much finer picture of the year. He had devoted himself largely to book illustrations, having, amongst other less well-known works, illustrated Earl Dunraven's book, the "Great Divide." He was also, for some years, connected with the *Graphic*, and had just entered into a new engagement to supply a series of double-page illustrations for the *Illustrated London News*. He had also arranged with Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin to supply some of the designs for their "Shakspeare," and had intended to bring out in his own name a series of Bible illustrations. His latest triumph happened only the other day, when he carried off the Crystal Palace gold medal for the best water-colour drawing. He was about, brisk and happy, showing his pictures on Picture Sunday; and now

Young Lycidas is dead, dead ere his prime.

On Picture Sunday he went home to his pleasant house at Harpenden, and, sinking under a fell disease, was dead and buried before his many friends could know that he was ill. Born on Valentine's Day, 1848, he was in his twenty-ninth year, and leaves behind him a widow who has barely had time to forget the feelings of a bride. "Whom the gods love die young," and their fatal attachment does not take account of the sore bereavement it brings about.—*Mayfair*.

SATURDAY, May 12th, will be the 750th night of the production of Mr. H. J. Byron's Comedy, *Our Boys*.

An amateur performance took place at the Opera Comique, for the benefit of the Masonic Schools, on Saturday last. Morton's amusing trifle, *An Unwarrantable Intrusion*, was the opening piece, in which Mr. Barrington Foote displayed considerable ability. In the *Ladies' Battle*, Mrs. Monckton's acting was of the most artistic and refined character, lacking only more power in the occasional outbursts of passionate feeling, to take the highest rank. It was natural, truthful, and uniformly well sustained throughout, and excited a large and fashionable audience to frequent outbursts of the most enthusiastic and well-deserved applause.



SCENE FROM "JEAN DACIER," AT THE COMEDIE FRANCAISE, PARIS.

MUSIC.

(All Music sent for review will be noticed within one month after its arrival.)

THE WAGNER FESTIVAL.

At the Albert Hall, on Monday last, the first concert was given of a series of six, devoted exclusively to the performance of selections from the music of Richard Wagner. Why these concerts should be dignified with the title of "Festival" it is not easy to comprehend, for the circumstances under which they are given are suggestive of mournful rather than cheering ideas; but as it is the fashion of the age to endow common-place things with magniloquent appellations, it would be needlessly querulous to complain that a plan has been adopted which was doubtless thought likely to be attended with pecuniary advantages. The grocer who calls his shop an "emporium," and the shoemaker who solicits custom at his "dépot," alike count on the weakness of human nature, knowing that mankind are often beguiled by high-sounding titles, and the old lady who remembered nothing of the bishop's sermon except "that blessed word, Mesopotamia," is but an exemplar of a numerous body of persons who find a series of half-a-dozen concerts additionally attractive when announced as a "Festival." If it adds to the comfort, or advantage, or self-satisfaction of Richard Wagner or anyone else to style the current series of concerts a "Festival," we have no objection to make, but we are entitled to review the circumstances under which the Festival is given, as well as to criticise the several performances.

Richard Wagner had a "Festival" last year at Bayreuth. *Absit omen!* That Festival ended in a large pecuniary loss. Vocalists and instrumentalists of great renown gave their gratuitous aid. Princes gave their patronage, and a prodigious number of tickets were sold at enormously high prices, yet the expenditure exceeded the receipts by several thousands of pounds. Some weeks back we published a translation of the appeal made by Wagner to his fellow-countrymen, and to the German Government; and it will be remembered that he suggested that the State should pay him about £5000 a year, in return for which pittance he proposed to give, at Bayreuth, an annual series of performances of—his own works! He proposed to place at the disposal of the State a considerable number of admission tickets, to be given as rewards to meritorious students. He also appealed to all lovers of art—as exemplified in his opera-dramas; and, in fact, "the hat was sent round" in all likely directions, with little shame and much perseverance. The result should enlighten the ignorance of the credulous people who have been under the delusion that Richard Wagner's theories are widely popular in Germany. After a considerable lapse of time, it became evident that the German government were deaf to his patriotic proposals, and that the comparatively small number of people who hail him as their "Prophet" were ready to shriek their professions of faith in the most enthusiastic manner, but "drew the line" at pecuniary evidences of their sincerity. In this emergency it was suggested to Wagner that he should revisit England, and give a series of performances of his own compositions, at the Albert Hall. It must have been a severe trial of his fortitude before he could assent to proposals so derogatory to his independence and self-respect. During his former visit to England he had made numerous enemies by his arrogance, and had subsequently insulted English journalists by declaring that they refused to do justice to his works because he would not bribe them. If he has revisited England for the sake of personally conducting the "Wagner Festival," it is out of no love for England, or the English, but because he needs our money. In consenting to give concert performances of works which he has declared to be indissolubly wedded to the stage, and in stooping to conciliate popular favor, by including in his programmes selections from those early works which he declares to be constructed on erroneous principles, he is false to himself; and instead of coming before us as a great artist, actuated by sincere convictions, he trails his personal dignity in the mire, and acts the part of a showman,—because he needs our money. These considerations must not, however, be permitted to interfere with the exercise of the strictest impartiality and fairness when criticising the works which are in course of performance at the Albert Hall.

At the opening concert, given on Monday last, the first half of the programme was composed of Wagner's "Kaiser-marsch," and a selection from *Tannhäuser*. In the march from *Tannhäuser* a startling innovation was introduced; the band of 170 performers being reinforced by the full power of the great organ, apparently for the sole purpose of ensuring the greatest possible amount of noise. Had such a liberty been taken by any English musician the disciples of Wagner would have been ready to tear the sacrilegious monster in pieces. The effect was unquestionably ridiculous; the band fought hard for a hearing, but the organ beat them all to nothing. On the principle that "a man may do whatever he likes with his own," Richard Wagner had the right to murder Richard Wagner's music, but the incident suggested grave doubts as to the "high art" theories which were thus associated with clap-trap. It has been urged that the organ was employed as a substitute for the chorus; but the organ completely overwhelmed the band (which the chorus never does), and, on "high art" principles, the piece should have been given with the aid of chorists, or not at all. Many of the audience must have heard much finer performances of the *Tannhäuser* scene at the Royal Italian Opera. The second part of the concert consisted of a copious selection from *Das Rheingold*, the introductory "opera-drama" which precedes the three works known as the Nibelungen Trilogy. At the second concert, on Wednesday last, the first part of the programme consisted of a long selection from *The Flying Dutchman*, which recalled regretful remembrances of the fine performances of that work given last autumn, under the direction of Mr. Carl Rosa, with a full and powerful chorus, instead of a dozen or so of feeble amateurs. The second part of the concert was composed of the first act of *Die Walküre*. The music selected from *Das Rheingold*, at the first concert, and *Die Walküre*, at the second, was on these occasions heard for the first time in England. That it might have been heard to greater advantage when performed at Bayreuth, with a perfect *mise en scène*, may readily be credited; but Herr Wagner chose voluntarily to submit it to criticism in concert performances, and it is simply as music, and not as dramatic writing, that we have to deal with it. The orchestration was always masterly, often superb; the vocal music was tedious and uninteresting to the last degree. Here and there came a rift in the clouds of dullness, and a few bars in regular melodic form encouraged expectations of "tunes;" but these anticipations soon faded; the clouds closed up again, and the dramatic personæ resumed their interminable recitative dialogue. At each concert the new music proved too much for the endurance of a large number of the audience, and many hundreds left the hall long before the conclusion of the performance.

We have on former occasions combated the modern theories of Herr Wagner, and there is no need to fight the old battle over again. It appears to us likely that the current performances of selections from his Nibelungen plays will do much to reduce his status among musicians, and will materially weaken the belief in him which has been professed by many persons who were quite ignorant of his later music. If they believe in him as an operatic

reformer, after having listened to the illustrations of his theories which were furnished on Monday and Wednesday last, their credulity must be boundless. We regret our inability to recognise anything valuable in the so-called "Music of the Future," and do not believe that it will survive its inventor. There are but few Wagnerites in Germany. There are still fewer in England. Were the latter placed inside a "Palace of Truth," and compelled to utter their real opinions as to Wagner's latest music, it would probably be found that nineteen twentieths of his professed admirers secretly loath the works which, for the sake of pleasing certain coteries, or of appearing wiser than ordinary people, they pretend to admire. His dramatic ability and poetic power everyone must acknowledge. He has, however, been unfortunate in his English translators, and few funnier things have been printed than the translations of *Das Rheingold* and *Die Walküre* into some language which is intended to pass for English. Thus—to give an instance—when Siegmund, at the conclusion of a sweet little thing in recitative, only thirty-four lines long, says:—

So to call myself Wehwalt 'came I,
For only woe was my own.

Hunding replies as follows:—

To have let thee know such luck,
Must love thee not the Norm;
With gladness hails thee no host
To whom thou go'st as guest.

Having previously expressed himself thus to Siegmund:—

Long thy way looks to have wound;
No horse he rode who rested here;
What muddy pathways made thee thy pain?

To which we can only reply, that if it be a conundrum we give it up. The selection from *Die Walküre* concluded with the scene of adultery and incest between Hunding's wife, Sieglinde, and her brother Siegmund. This precious pair are the last survivors of the race of the Wolsungs; and a mutual recognition takes place previously to the following passage—which provoked only a few hisses:—

SIEGMUND.—Bride and sister be to thy brother,
And blossom the Wolsungs' blood!

(He draws her to him with fiery force; she sinks with a cry on his breast. The curtain falls quickly.) With this specimen of the dramatic genius of Wagner, which we should not have ventured to print had it not been placed last Wednesday before the eyes of two or three thousand English matrons and maidens in the official programme of the "Festival," we think it best to conclude "quickly."

Several articles and notices are held over until next week.

WAGNER AT HOME.

WHATEVER may be the question of the merits of Wagner as a composer, as a poet, and as a reformer in music (says a daily contemporary), there can be none concerning the interest attached to him personally, of whatever degree that interest may be. Thanks to his own earnest and persistent, if not consistent, labours, and the efforts of a few who accept his views as the grounds of a new creed in art, he has been one of the most talked about men of the present day. The natural curiosity to see the man and to hear his own musical productions directed and his doctrines expounded by himself is consequently considerable, and we think, for that same reason, our artist's "Wagner at Home," will be heartily welcome to by far the larger section of our subscribers.

The Villa Whanfried, in which Wagner resides, and of which we have already given a drawing, is a quiet-looking house, with a large allegorical fresco by Krausse over the entrance, serving as a kind of artistic sign of its owner's profession and aspirations. The entrance hall is one of large and fine proportions, decorated with frescoes and statuettes from the owner's operatic works. Opening into it is the salon represented in our artist's drawing. It extends the entire width of the building, and is Wagner's favourite abiding place. Here he receives his guests and here he pursues his studies; it is at once drawing-room, library, and studio. A large bay window looks out from this room upon the lawn and garden, in which Wagner has prepared a vault to receive his remains after death: and over which a large granite tombstone already bears his name, a somewhat grim reminder when twilight gloom descends upon the shrubs and trees and flower-beds, and paths are solemn in the death-like stillness of this secluded nook. The walls of the room are lined with book-cases, and prominent amongst the works thus displayed, stand in a row the compositions of the owner amongst those of Handel, Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart, Gluck, Weber, Palestrina, Liszt, and other eminent composers. In the corner our picture embraces, stands the grand piano on which Wagner is playing, as he did when the famous rehearsals of 1875 were conducted in this salon before the theatre was ready, and where we see him with Niemann, his musical friends and associates on one of those pleasant evenings which our artist was privileged to enjoy, when cheerful talk, amusing anecdotes, songs and music beguiled the evening hours after "Abendessen" had been served in the garden or dining-room. The composer's family consist of his wife and five children. Madame Wagner—the composer's second wife—is the daughter of Franz Liszt, and a passionate admirer of her husband's genius. She is tall, handsome, and strongly resembles her father.

As the father of a family and the genial, hospitable host, our correspondent speaks of Wagner in glowing terms. Whatever may be said of the temper of the great composer—and none who know him will deny him its possession—when surrounded by his brethren in art, amongst his personal friends,—as we here see him—he appears in his most amiable light. The correspondent to whom we are indebted for our illustration, says:—"The first time the writer found himself in Whanfried, he was met by a large assembly, some of whom belong to the celebrities of the day, such as Betz, Niemann, Wilhelmj, one of the greatest violin players living, and others. He adds, 'the first thing that met my eye was a large organ, which (as I heard) was sent by American ladies in recognition of their gratitude for the 'March' Wagner had composed at the opening of the Philadelphia Exhibition. Although all present were perfect strangers to me, still I contrived to feel myself comfortable within a very short time of my arrival. I heard some truly splendid music played by Wagner himself, Rubinstein, and Wilhelmj, and several solos and duets by Miss Lehmann, Mr. Niemann, the great German tenor, and several others. In short, I spent a very happy evening, and always when in a dull mood if I try but to remember those pleasant hours, the images I recall are sure to have their magnetic power in again producing pleasant sentiments and feelings."

MESSRS. F. WARNE AND Co. are issuing a cheap, handsome, and portable edition of Mr. Joseph Hatton's novels, which ought to command an extended sale. We have received "The Valley of Poppies," "Christopher Kenrick," and "Clytie."

At the meeting of the National Provincial Bank of England, held on the 10th inst., it was resolved that a dividend and bonus be declared of 11 per cent. for the half-year, being the usual 4 per cent. dividend, with a bonus of 7 per cent., making, with the distribution in January last, 21 per cent. for the year.

THE DRAMA.

WITH the exception of Mr. Corney Grain's new musical sketch *Edwin and Angelina*, and a new second piece by Mr. Burnand, entitled *No. 204*, both produced at the German Reed's entertainment on Monday evening, and noticed hereafter, and the production at the Folly on Saturday afternoon of Messrs. Arthur Matheson and Edward Solomon's new comic operetta *Contempt of Court*, there is little to record as having taken place in the dramatic world during the past week, beyond the following few changes of programme.

GAIETY THEATRE.—For the benefit of the General Theatrical Fund, on Monday afternoon, the chief attraction was Coleman's comedy *John Bull*, which was admirably represented by an unusually strong cast, including Mr. Phelps, as Job Thornbury; Mr. Hermann Vezin as Peregrine, Mr. Kendal as Tom Shuffleton, Mr. Toole as Denis Brulgrudery, Mr. Lionel Brough as Dan, and Messrs. Maclean, Barnes, and Soutar; and Miss Hollingshead as Mary Thornbury, Miss Litton as Lady Caroline, and Mrs. Leigh as Mrs. Brulgrudery. The performance for the benefit of Mr. Toole, attracted an overflowing audience on Wednesday evening, when the popular comedian appeared in his original character in Mr. Byron's comic drama, *Tottles*, revived for the occasion, and as Tommy, in the new burlesque of *Our Babes in the Wood*, and in the latter introduced some new verses in his popular song about the great traveller "Who always came home to tea." The present performances, consisting of *Artful Cards* and *Our Babes in the Wood*, will be brought to a termination on Saturday next, when Mr. Toole ends his engagement, and makes his last appearance in London previous to a long provincial tour. The French plays commence here on the following Monday, the 21st instant, with the recent Parisian novelty, *L'Ami Fritz*. Mlle. Theresa appears on the 4th of June, and Madame Chaumont on the 18th.

SURREY THEATRE.—The Court drama, *Alone*, and the revived *Tom and Jerry*, closed their present career here last night, Mr. Holland having made arrangements for three special and farewell performances by Mr. Creswick, who will appear to-night and on Monday evening as Hamlet, and on Tuesday evening as *The Stranger*, and Petruccio in *Taming the Shrew*. With the exception of his farewell benefit at the Gaiety on Wednesday afternoon, the 23rd instant, these will be Mr. Creswick's last appearances in London previous to his departure for Australia.

At the Park Theatre the continued success of *Little Nelly*, as represented by Miss Virginia Blackwood and her company, caused the postponement of the Surrey drama, *Innocent, or the Burning Ship*, which was announced for revival last Saturday. It is intended, however, to bring it out this evening.

At the Aquarium Theatre, on Saturday afternoon, Mr. Toole appeared in *Off the Line*, and *Ici on Parle Français*, which were given instead of *Cyril's Success*, which was represented in the evening. Mr. Toole will again appear this afternoon in *Uncle Dick's Darling*.

At the Crystal Palace the series of "Boucicault Plays" is still in progress. On Tuesday, *Faust and Marguerite* was represented, Mr. Charles Wyndham sustaining Mr. Charles Kean's old part of Mephistopheles, and Miss Eastlake, Marguerite. *Arrah-na-Pogue* was to be repeated on Thursday; Miss Lydia Thompson and her company from the Folly are to play *Oxygen* here this afternoon.

At the Marylebone Theatre was produced on Saturday evening a new sensational drama, entitled *Life in a Coal Mine*, abounding in exciting incidents, the most prominent of which is a startling and most effectively managed representation of a fire-damp explosion in a mine. Mr. Boucicault's Irish drama, *The Shaughraun*, which was admirably interpreted throughout, especially by Mr. Cave, who greatly enlivened the impersonation of Conn by several Irish melodies, very appropriate to the situations in which they were introduced, and illustrated with scenery, not surpassed at the west-end theatres for artistic and picturesque beauty, or the effective mechanical change from the interior to the exterior of the prison, has continued in the bills for six consecutive weeks, an unusually long run in a theatre depending almost entirely upon local support, was at length withdrawn last night, to be replaced to night by a revival of the old Victoria drama, *Marianna*. The Whitsuntide novelty in preparation at this house is a new drama, entitled, *Face to Face, a Tale of the Cornish Coast*.

Their Royal Highnesses the Duke of Connaught and the Princess Louise (the Marchioness of Lorne) attended the Criterion Theatre on Thursday evening last week, and on Tuesday last the Duke of Connaught and suite visited the Prince of Wales's Theatre.

To-day's Morning Performances comprise *Richelieu*, with Mr. Phelps as the Cardinal, and Miss Litton as Julie de Mortemar, at the Gaiety Matinée; *Richard III.* (for the last time) at the Lyceum; the *Pink Dominoes* at the Criterion; *Man and Wife* and *Une Tasse de Thé* at the Opera Comique, for the benefit of Mr. Markby; *Uncle Dick's Darling*, with Mr. Toole in his original character, at the Royal Aquarium Theatre; and *Oxygen* by Miss Lydia Thompson, and her company from the Folly, at the Crystal Palace.

At the Strand two changes will be made in the programme to-night. *The Dowager* will be replaced by Mr. Sydney Grundy's new comedy *Mammon*, which met with such success on its recent production here on the occasion of Mr. Vernon's benefit, and subsequently on its repetition at a day performance at the Gaiety; and Mr. Clarke will appear in *Toddles* instead of in *Babes and Beetles*, withdrawn last night. *Trial by Jury* will still maintain its place in the bill.

At the Surrey Mr. Creswick will appear as Hamlet, being the first of three special performances by this popular tragedian, who, on Monday evening, will repeat the impersonation of Hamlet, and on Tuesday appear in *The Stranger* and *Taming the Shrew*.

At the Royal Park Theatre Miss Virginia Blackwood will produce the Surrey drama, *Innocent; or the Burning Ship*, adapted from *Le Portefeuille Rouge*.

At the Marylebone Theatre will be revived the old Victoria drama, *Marianna*, to be played in conjunction with the new sensational drama of *Life in a Coal Mine*.

MR. FRANK STAINFORTH and Mr. John Douglass, the authors of *Rank and Fame*, a great success at the Standard Theatre about two years ago, are again at work together on a historical drama, entitled *Jane Grey; or, the Queen of an Hour*, which will be produced at the same house in September.

"CONTEMPT OF COURT," by Messrs. Matthison and Solomon, was produced at the Folly on Saturday last, amid every sign of success. We reserve our notice.

MISS ALICE MAY has received an offer from Mr. Max Strakosch for a long tour in the U.S. and Canada. She opens in Birmingham on Monday.

MR. AMBROSE AUSTIN'S ANNUAL CONCERT.—Among the host of artists to appear at Mr. Austin's Annual Concert at St. James's Hall on Thursday evening next are—Mlle. Titiens, Miss Lillian Roscoe, Madame Antoinette Sterling, Madame Trebelli, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Edward Lloyd, Mr. Maybrick, Mr. Santley; violin, M. Paul Viardot; pianoforte, Mr. Henry Ketten. Conductors, Mr. Sydney Naylor and Mr. F. H. Cowen.

GLOBE THEATRE.

"IN deference to adverse criticism," the management has withdrawn the absurd play of *Percy*, which never ought to have been produced, and on Monday last supplanted it with a revival of the well-known dramatic version of Mrs. Henry Wood's sensational novel "East Lynne." This play, though depressing in tone and intensely melancholy in the last act, has long been a favourite with playgoers from its impressive situations, and its well-sustained and deeply-touching story of domestic trials. Much, however, of the interest which the drama inspires depend on the competency of the actress who represents the heroine, a character requiring for its adequate delineation intense earnestness, and the rare and difficult quality of subdued emotional power. Miss Louise Moodie, who now sustains the part of the heroine—first as Lady Isabel, and subsequently in her assumed name of Mrs. Vine, to gain access to her dying child—possesses these qualities in a high degree, and by her admirable impersonation fully justifies the encomiums which have been passed upon her embodiment of the same part during two long and successful engagements at the National Standard. Some weeks since we fully described the many and varied excellences of Miss Moodie's acting in *East Lynne* at the Standard, and can add but little to the merited praise we then bestowed upon it, except that her impersonation at the Globe is, if possible, still more finished and unsurpassed for refinement and intelligence, for its impressive force in the strong situations of the second act, and for the tenderness and touching pathos at the close. Mr. W. J. Hill caused plenty of hilarity by his amusing portraiture of Lawyer Dill; and Messrs. Ireland, Markby, and Miss Murielli efficiently represented Archibald Carlyle, the scoundrel, Captain Levison, and Barbara Hare, respectively. The merry piece of extravagance *Vesta's Temple*, with Mr. W. J. Hill in his original character of Gummidge, the manager, still forms the concluding item in the present programme, which will terminate next Saturday night, as Mr. Righton commences his management on the following Monday, the 21st inst., with *After Dark*.

OPERA COMIQUE.

THE well-known and long popular adaptation from Balzac's *Mercadet*, *The Game of Speculation*, has been represented here during the week in succession to *The Liar*, and maintains all its old powers of amusing, which have rendered it an unfailing source of attraction for upwards of a quarter of a century. As Affable Hawke, the daring speculator, so fertile in expedients and resources, undaunted by difficulties, and ever sanguine in ultimate extrication from them, Mr. Charles Mathews is seen to greater advantage than in any of his old characters that he has recently appeared in. It still fits him exactly, as it always did since he first created the part at the Lyceum in 1851, and has always been one of his great successes. There are still the same ease, unruffled coolness, and readiness of resource, the same tact and skill in appeasing the rancour and indignation of his victims, and eventually converting them over and over again into his puppets towards furthering his bubble projects. His memory and volubility, upon which this long and arduous impersonation makes large demands, are as perfect and flowing as ever, and above all, this impersonation is freer, if not altogether free, from the lassitude and lessened vivacity of autumnal years, apparent in most of the assumptions Mr. Mathews has recently reappeared in, so that it is still an unalloyed pleasure to see this old favourite and finished artist in such a performance. The other characters, who are merely satellites to the central personage, are efficiently represented. Mr. Barnes, though gentlemanly and self-possessed as Sir Harry Lester, alias "Bradshaw," seemed to have forgotten that this adventurer, who wanted to "borrow money on the sea," was as arant a humbug as Hawke himself, and his impersonation did not efface our recollection of the excellent delineation of the same part by the late Robert Roxby, the original exponent at the Lyceum. Mr. Maclean was, as usual, artistic and original as Earthworm. Messrs. Young, Leigh, and Valentine were the three co-speculators, Mr. Hamilton Astley, a rising young actor, played the small part of Julia Hawke's lover with marked care and discretion, and Mrs. Young and Miss Abington were satisfactory representatives of Mrs. Hawke and her daughter Julia. Mr. Charles Mathews continues his impersonation of the volatile traveller, Tom Russelton, in *A Cosy Couple*. The next character he is to appear in, will be Sir Charles Coldstream, in *Used Up*, which will be revived on Monday next.

GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT.

THE programme of Mr. and Mrs. German Reed's entertainment underwent two changes on Monday evening by the production of two novelties—Mr. Corney Grain's new musical sketch *Edwin and Angelina* in lieu of *The five o'clock Tea* and a new second part quaintly entitled *No. 204*, by Mr. F. C. Burnand, with music by Mr. German Reed, to replace *A Night Surprise*. Both novelties are excellent of their kind; light, humorous, eminently amusing, and worthy to be bracketed with the best successes of these ever popular entertainments, as testified by the continuous laughter which they excited, and the unanimous applause with which they were received. The *Edwin and Angelina* of the new musical sketch are a young couple just married, and Mr. Corney Grain having first described, with witty and good humoured satire, the difficulties in selecting the locality for their *menage*, the varying suggestion of their friends, and their final choice of a back street in an aristocratic neighbourhood, followed by a similar description of the furniture, &c. A comic and cleverly written description, in song, of the *menu* of *Edwin and Angelina's* first dinner party, the green-grocer for the nonce a butler, the page, and the guests—with the inevitable contretemps to mar the success of all pretentious entertainments, and, finally, on the guests adjourning to the drawing-room, Mr. Corney Grain displays his musical skill and versatility in his clever rendering of several new songs, in various styles, supposed to be sung by some of the guests. The little sketch, abounding in such good-humoured satire, and so amusingly rendered, was received with frequent applause, and Mr. Corney Grain was vociferously recalled before the curtain. Mr. Burnand's *No. 204* is an amusing, admirably constructed, and perfect little drawing-room comedy, comprising only four characters—Mr. and Mrs. Denbigh and Mr. and Mrs. Sommerville—and resting on the slenderest of foundations, the absurd complications which are made naturally to arise out of the unfounded jealousy of the husband of one of the married couples, and of the wife of the other; 204 is the number of a room at the Hanover Grand Hotel, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Denbigh—the former is the jealous husband, and is a further sufferer from a chronic inclination to sneeze, which he cannot always succeed in gratifying. After some trifling incidents to make the audience acquainted with his feeling of jealousy, he leaves to consult his doctor about his sneezing affliction, when Mr. Sommerville enters. This gentleman had formerly, before her marriage, been an admirer and aspirant for the hand of Mrs. Denbigh. To return a purse and light overcoat, which he had found in a cab he had engaged the previous day at a railway station, just as a middle-aged gentleman had hurriedly left it to catch his train—the address of the owner Mr. Sommerville had discovered from a card in the purse; he was, however, ignorant of his former sweetheart's married name.

When Mrs. Denbigh appears, they mutually recognise each other, and familiarly chat over their romance of youthful days, when an ominous sneeze indicates the return of Mr. Denbigh. The lady is terrified, fearing the fatal consequences certain to ensue were her jealous husband to find a stranger with her in his absence, and compels Sommerville to go into the adjoining apartment. Denbigh, however, sees the overcoat left by Sommerville. He becomes frantically jealous, and searching the pocket finds the card of Dr. Blenkinsop, and assumes him to be the destroyer of his domestic happiness, and rushes out to make inquiries about the visits of the doctor to his wife. Sommerville, unable to find an egress from the adjoining room, now re-enters No. 204 to take his departure, but on the instant the furious Denbigh returns; through Mrs. Denbigh's ready wit and tact he is induced to believe that Sommerville is Doctor Blenkinsop, who had come to prescribe for his disease of chronic tendency to sneeze. Sommerville, to keep up the pretended professional character and visit, writes a fancy prescription, which Mr. Denbigh hurries off to have made up at once at a neighbouring chemist's. This is an opportunity for Sommerville to escape from the dilemma, but having left his hat in the adjoining room, he goes to fetch it, when Mrs. Sommerville, who is as jealous of her lord and master as Mr. Denbigh is of his wife, enters, and further ludicrous and amusing complications arise, when she finds her husband returning into Mrs. Denbigh's drawing-room. Here the most tuneful and pretty of Mr. German Reed's contributions to the little piece takes place. A duet between Mr. and Mrs. Sommerville, in which the latter seeks an explanation of her husband's presence in Mrs. Denbigh's apartments, and the former nervously attempts to satisfactorily account for, and which was very effectively rendered by Miss Leonora Braham and Mr. Alfred Reed. The needful explanations soon after set all to rights, and harmony is restored between the mistaken quartet; two or three of the songs as printed in the book were omitted on Monday evening, but of those given, besides the duet just mentioned, Mrs. Denbigh's plaintive air "The Faded Picture" and the duet "Go Away" between Mr. Sommerville and Mrs. Denbigh are worthy of praise. Mr. Law and Miss Fanny Holland as Mr. and Mrs. Denbigh, and Mr. Alfred Reed and Miss Leonora Braham as Mr. and Mrs. Sommerville did full justice to Mr. Burnand's creations. *The Two Foster Brothers* continues on the programme as the opening piece, and has been wonderfully worked up since the first night of its production.

MDLLE. EMILIA CHIOMI.

THIS highly-gifted young artiste, who made such a successful debut at the Albert Hall on April 2, is an Englishwoman by birth, and evidently a thorough artiste by instinct as well as by culture. The possession, at an early age, of a fine soprano voice, coupled with remarkable musical talent, induced Mdlle. Chiomi's friends to make every exertion to obtain for her a thorough musical education. With this object in view, the young girl was taken to Italy and placed under the care of the best masters of the old cantabile school, and notably the late Pietro Romani, of Florence, under whom Pasta, Grisi, Malibran, and Lagrange studied. Mdlle. Chiomi's dramatic powers have been also fully developed under able masters, indeed the great Salvini, charmed by her natural ability, devoted himself *con amore* to the cultivation of Mdlle. Chiomi's acting, and last year in Florence, superintended himself her impersonation of Mignon at the Pergola. Mdlle. Chiomi has sung as prima donna in Turin, Milan, Oporto, and Florence, and has recently completed a tour through Germany and the south of France, meeting everywhere with the greatest success, and receiving the warmest commendations of competent judges. Mdlle. Chiomi's voice is a pure soprano, clear, rich, fresh, and exceedingly powerful, possessing great range and flexibility. She sings with all the fluency of an Italian, perfect intonation and style, the latter having lately received careful finishing from the great Lagrange herself. *L'Evenement*, of Paris, in speaking of a concert in that city, where Mdlle. Chiomi appeared in conjunction with Madame Lagrange, Capoul, &c., says:—"Puis on a vu la grande artiste Mme. Lagrange prendre place au piano pour accompagner une de ses élèves Mdlle. Emilia Chiomi, dont la voix de cristal, nette, vibrante, bien posée lutait de souplesse et d'agilité avec la flûte de M. de Vroye dans l'air de la folie de Lucie. Mdlle. Chiomi est evident une grande artiste." Since her debut, Mdlle. Chiomi has appeared at the Philharmonic, St. James's Hall, and by her artistic singing fully sustained the reputation she has acquired on the Continent. Great results are therefore anticipated from her, both in opera and oratorio.

We quote the opinions of two of our contemporaries with reference to Mdlle. Chiomi's debut at the first concert of the New Philharmonic Society on the 14th of last month. The *Queen* says:—"Her great triumph was, however, achieved in the splendid setting by Liszt of the dramatic scene, 'Jeanne d'Arc au Bûcher,' of Alexandre Dumas. Dignity, devotion, passion, power, and patriotic feeling in this composition are remarkably indicated, and it is beautifully scored. In pathos and in fervour the singing of Mdlle. Chiomi created a powerful sensation; it was vocal declamation of a very high order, realising the poetic conception of both words and music. The extensive compass of her voice in an ascending and descending scale, in the passage 'Et pourtant j'ai sauvé la France,' was surprising. The accompaniments were too loud, but the dramatic impulsiveness of the vocalist was irrepresible. The sympathies of her hearers were manifested by much cheering and recalls. Her reception here was an endorsement of the judgment in her favour at Florence, where she sang in the *Mignon* of M. Ambroise Thomas with equal success." The *Athenæum* of the same date says:—"There was only one vocalist, Mdlle. Chiomi, who had reason to protest against the loudness of the accompaniments to her two airs: one, the 'Jewel' *bravura scena* of Marguerite, from M. Gounod's *Faust*; and the other a dramatic scene, by Dr. Liszt, the touching words by M. Alexandre Dumas, 'Jeanne d'Arc au Bûcher.' This setting by the famous pianist is one of the most impassioned specimens of vocal declamation and of characteristic orchestration that have been written to illustrate the death of the Maid of Orleans. The mingled emotions of religious fervour, of heroic resignation, and of patriotic feeling, are noted by the composer in such a manner as to excite the strongest sympathy for the victim. The contrast between the devotional passages at the approach of death and the national impulses which sustain Jeanne at the funeral pile is marked with extraordinary skill and effect, and the ascending and descending scales at the words, 'Et pourtant j'ai sauvé la France,' the refrain of each verse, tell most powerfully. Mdlle. Chiomi, by her pathos and fervour, realised the intentions of the composer so completely as to evoke a burst of applause at the close, followed by repeated recalls; the artiste, in fact, displayed an extent of compass in the register of her voice, a certainty in the attacks of the intervals, and a dramatic intensity, which quite took the audience by surprise, as no previous announcements had prepared the hearers to expect a *débutante* quite out of the ordinary order of concert singers. It is but right to state that the success of Mdlle. Chiomi at Florence in the *Mignon* of M. Ambroise Thomas is now confirmed and accounted for."

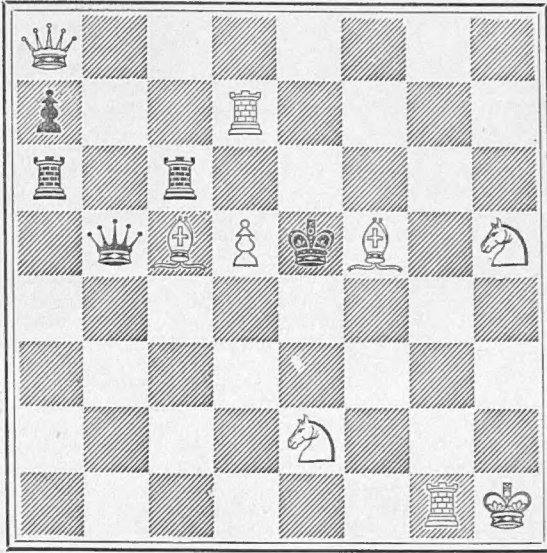
NO HOUSE WITHOUT CHAPPUIS' DAYLIGHT REFLECTORS.
—Factory, 69, Fleet-street.—[Advrt.]

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. S. W. (Winson Green).—No date has yet been fixed for the match between Messrs. Blackburne and Zukertort. Herr Zukertort is not an Englishman.
W. RICHARDS (Southampton).—The problem shall be examined, and if found good and correct, published; but first attempts are rarely or never either one or the other.
S. SENIOR (Cambridge).—The King cannot castle after it has been moved. The fact that he has been checked does not deprive the monarch of his ancient privilege. Wormald's "Chess Openings" is the best work on the subject, according to all the best judges of the theory of the game. We do not know the price.
Correct Solutions of Problem No. 143 received from H. S., R. K., Thompson, W. Lee, Queen of Connaught, Derby, J. Wontone, S. Senior, W. S. J., Paul's Roost, H. N. S., Oxoniensis, J. D. T., and Cheltenham.

PROBLEM NO. 144.
By J. BYNG (of Boxford).
BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

CHESS IN LONDON.

THE following well-fought game was played at Simpson's Divan :—
[MUZIO GAMBIT.]

WHITE. (Mr. Hiber.)	BLACK. (Mr. Marks.)	WHITE. (Mr. Hiber.)	BLACK. (Mr. Marks.)
1. P to K 4	P to K 4	23. K to R sq	B to Kt 2
2. P to K B 4	P takes P	24. R to K R 5	K to Kt sq
3. Kt to K B 3	P to Kt 4	25. B to Q Kt 5	K to Q 2
4. B to B 4	P to Kt 5	26. B takes P	P to K B 4
5. P to Q 4	P takes Kt	27. R to K sq	Kt to K 6 (e)
6. Q takes P	Q to K B 3 (a)	28. K to Kt sq	B to K B 2
7. Kt to B 3 (b)	Kt to B 3	29. R to K Kt 5	P to R 3
8. P to K 5	Kt takes Q P (c)	30. K R to K Kt sq	P to B 5
9. P takes Q	Kt takes Q (ch)	31. B to Q B 3	B to Q 4
10. P takes Kt	Kt takes P	32. B to K 5	B to Q B 5
11. B takes Pat B 5	P to Q B 3	33. B takes B P	K to R 2
12. Castles Q R	P to Q 4	34. B to B sq	B takes K B P
13. B to K 5	K to K 2	35. R to Kt 3	B to R 4
14. B takes Q P	P takes B	36. R to Kt 3	H to B 2
15. Kt takes P	Kt takes Kt	37. R takes P	R to Q B 2
16. B takes K	B to K 3 (d)	38. K to K 2	B to Kt 3
17. B to Q 4	R to Q B sq	39. K to R 2	R to K B 2
18. P to Q R 3	P to Q R 4	40. R to Q Kt 4	R to B 8
19. K K to K sq	B to K R 3 (ch)	41. R to K 7	Kt to Q 3
20. K to Q Kt sq	P to Q Kt 4	42. B takes R P (f)	K takes B
21. B to B 2	K to B sq	43. R to R 4 (ch)	Resigns.
22. R to K 5	R to Q sq		

(a) The usual and the best move here is P to Q 4th.
(b) P to K 5 appears to be more to the purpose.
(c) By this sacrifice Black apparently hoped to escape from the attack with a pawn superiority, but he failed to see that he assists the development of the adverse forces.
(d) Black has played the last few moves very well.
(e) All this is very skilfully played.
(f) A fine conception, White's pawns are now more than an equivalent for his opponent's extra piece.

CHESS INTELLIGENCE.

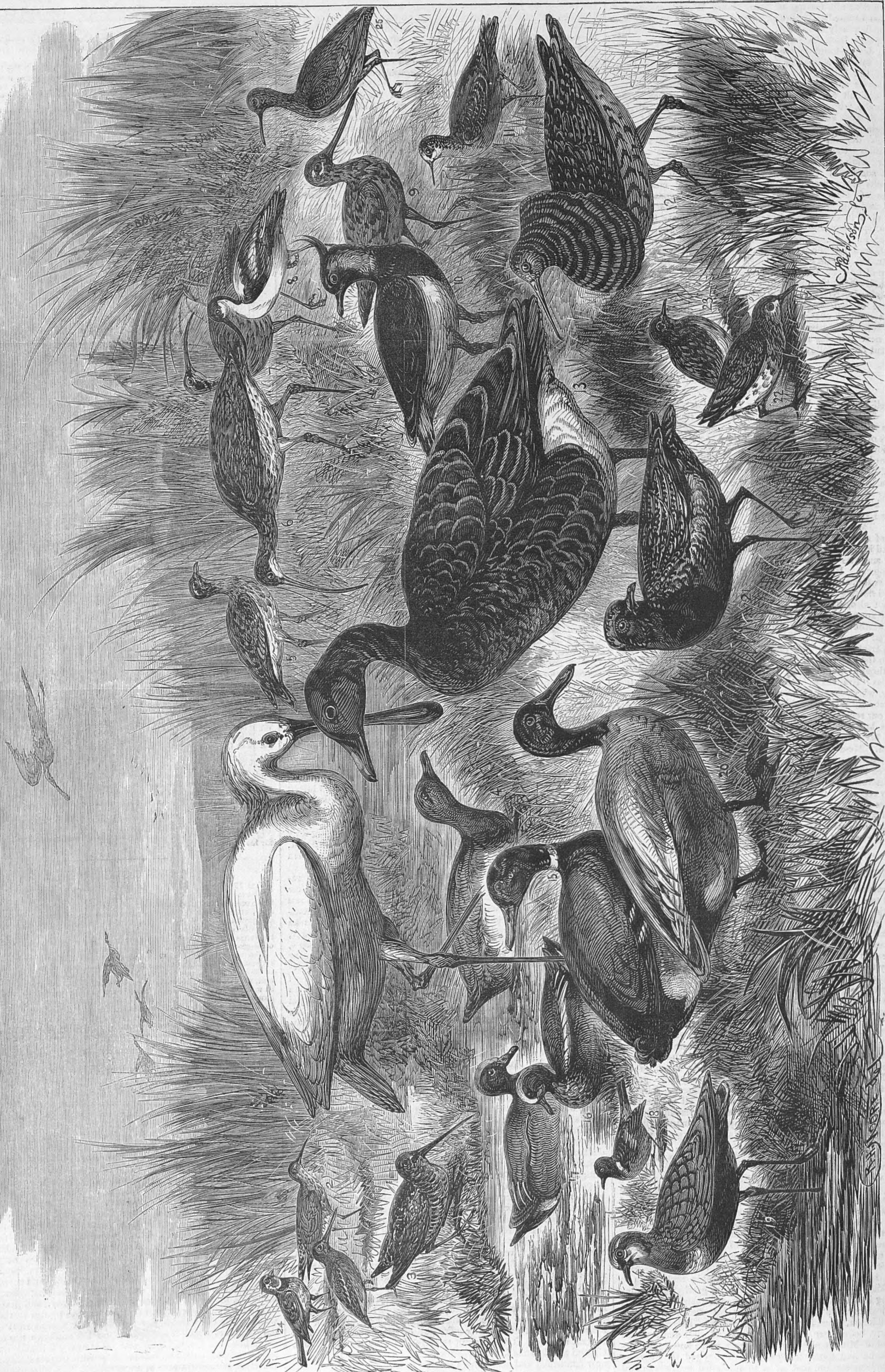
THE Handicap Tourney at the City of London Chess Club is approaching its termination, and as is invariably the case, the contest grows more interesting as the end draws near. The battle between Messrs. Macdonnell and Potter is expected to come off in the course of next week, and the result will probably determine the places of the principal players in the tourney. Mr. Blackburne's match against Mr. Beardsell, in which the latter receives the large odds of a Knight is likely to prove a rather hollow affair. The odds-giver has scored four to his opponent's one.

The annual festival of the Croydon Chess Club was celebrated on the 1st instant, when the members were hospitably entertained by the President of the club Mr. Joseph Steele. In the course of the evening Mr. Macdonnell, who was specially invited, contested ten games simultaneously against as many adversaries, and in two hours play succeeded in winning eight games; the other two being unfinished. Among the ten amateurs opposed to Mr. Macdonnell, was Mrs. Steele, the wife of the President. The lady maintained an equal game for a longer time than any other player, and eventually only lost by a hasty move.

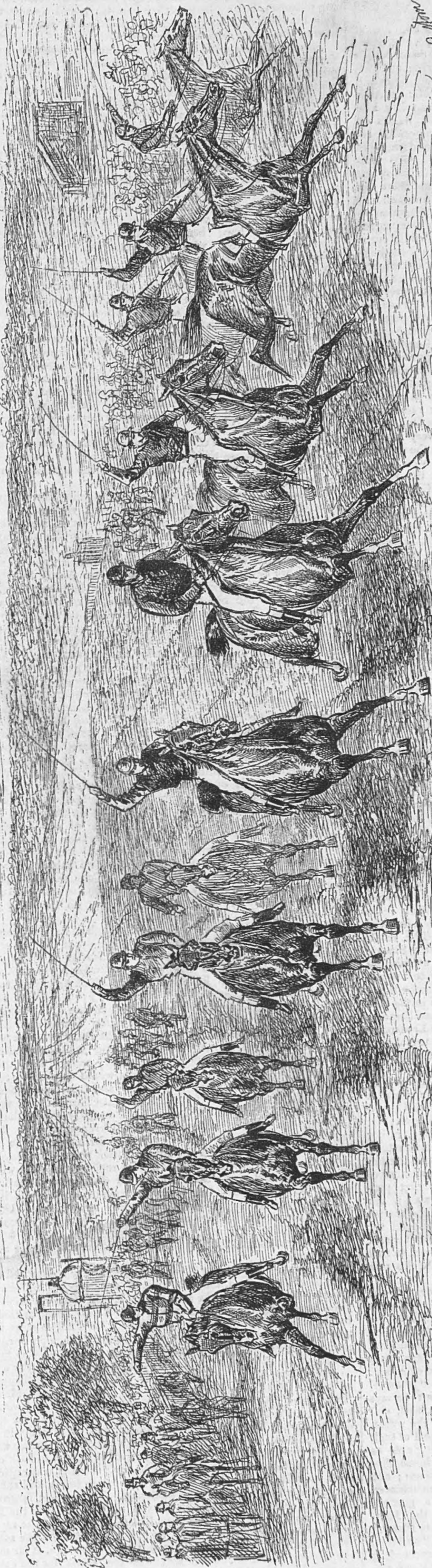
After the play, the guests sat down to supper and did not separate until a late hour.

THE Canterbury, which has long borne the palm for variety and excellence in its entertainments, is growing specially famous for the grandeur and perfection of its ballets. Its latest production in this way, called *The Reign of Love; or, Age, Youth, and Wine*, is one of exceptional excellence, equalling the best thing of the kind yet produced, and far surpassing ordinary combinations of scenery, pantomime music, and dancing, in the form of ballet. From the weird gloom of its opening scene, in which the picturesque old alchemist, haunted by blue devils while brooding over his mystic spells, dreams of youth, beauty, and pleasure in the despair of vanished youth, until the closing scene, in which (after the blue devils have been routed in a desperate melo-dramatic conflict) a hundred graceful and pretty girls in gorgeous costumes of the most fantastic and delightfully varied colours, forms, and materials, celebrate the triumph of the aged one's restored youth in a dream of love and pleasure in fairyland, we have a constant succession of pleasing surprises. Mademoiselle Pitteri, most plump and buoyant of dancers, leaves nothing for the imagination to exercise itself upon, save the wonder of her almost incorporeal lightness, which only baffles and perplexes it. Mademoiselle Ada, in her succession of charming gestures and attitudes, displayed a degree of ease, elasticity, and gracefulness as she tripped through the rapidly changing figures of the dance, which made the watching of her lithe and symmetrical form an occupation of which it seemed neither the audience nor ourselves could have too much. This new ballet was produced on Wednesday evening last, and was received with extraordinary and enthusiastic demonstrations of approval.

CARDINAL, ECRU, AND TWENTY-FOUR OTHER COLOURS.—JUNSON'S DYES are most useful and effectual. Ribbons, Scarves, Jackets, Table-covers, &c., &c., are easily dyed in ten minutes. Ask for JUNSON'S DYES, at Chemists and Stationers. Price Sixpence per bottle. — [Advrt.]



WILD FOWL PRESERVATION—THE BIRDS MENTIONED IN THE ACT.



*The young fine choir.
The students judge
the*

Lucy

THE RACE FOR THE TWO THOUSAND.

TURFIANA.

LORD CALTHORPE'S motion, "that in future divisions of the Jockey Club, the custom of taking the votes by a show of hands be abolished, and the names of members with their votes be recorded," is a step in the right direction; and it seems highly anomalous, not to say absurd, that voting should have hitherto been conducted practically by ballot, so far as the sporting public are concerned, and that racing subjects should be ignorant of the administrative tendencies of their rulers. Thus another of those barriers of conservatism is likely to be broken down which but few of the governing body can be anxious to retain; and it is obviously politic, as well as courteous, towards the very large and influential body which is swayed by the aristocratic counsels of the Jockey Club, that they should so far be taken into confidence as to be made acquainted with the names on a division list, as well as with the bare numerical result. A recent decision has set people wondering as to the composition of the famous "eleven," who followed Mr. Alexander and Colonel Forester into the lobby on the question of lowering the weights in handicaps; and there can be no doubt that the publication of names will have a tendency to lessen the absurdities of fancy legislation, and to cause men to think twice before according their support to any extravagant measure. In our humble opinion, no great harm could ensue from having a full "parliamentary" report of the proceedings of the club laid before us on occasions of important debate; and though the bare promulgation of such an idea may cause us to be denounced as heretical revolutionists, the day may not be very far distant when such a change may have to be recorded. Proceedings *in camera* are distasteful to English tastes, and though we are a law-abiding people, and prone to the worship of aristocracy, it cannot be forgotten that the Jockey Club is a self-constituted court both of legislature and appeal, and only continues to exist in these capacities by a sort of divine right, which, during its wise and moderate exercise, we should be sorry to call in question.

Thursday on the Heath was black and barren as regards weather and sport, and the Handicap Plate was only remarkable as giving the owner of Sabrina some idea of his filly's One Thousand pretensions, which were made out to be of a very humble order, albeit she could not be said to have any pull in the weights. Lacy, duly fortified against his wonted nervousness, won easily, and another rogue was to the fore in Breechloader in the following race. Dalgarno, another winner from last year's Cobham lot, secured a Maiden Plate, but he was only moderate after all, and there was metal more attractive about Conquest, bred at Bonehill, so that Lord Vivian had to pay 520 guineas for adding another Pero Gomez to his collection, and Hidalgo has certainly done the stable good service. Meg Merrilies is one of the first of Macgregor's get, and has a goodly share of her sire's speed, which enabled her to beat La Sauteuse; and then it was the Duke of Hamilton's turn to score a win with the happily named Dare Devil, a regular Saunterer, who came through with a dash befitting his name, and made very short work of his three opponents. Woodbridge by Suffolk, and the doubtfully bred Cerberus were winners of the Welter and Burwell handicaps; the One Thousand betting taking a far wider scope than usual; and including almost everything with a prospect of facing the starter. In fact nearly everything had a price, and the unwonted spectacle of nineteen going down to the Rowley Mile starting post bore silent testimony to the rottenness of the field, and the revived hopes of outsiders. Lady Golightly had none of her Champagne ripeness about her, but she has not so hopelessly deteriorated as the enemy would have us to believe, and may still largely benefit the Falmouth exchequer. Palm Flower has neither grown nor improved, and Morgiana has rather made a "backwardation," while Dee is evidently one of the deceptive sort, and Plaisante "useful" but nothing more, though Jennings naturally inclined somewhat to her chance in so moderate a field, and many a fiver won over Chamant went upon the daughter of Cymbal. There were very few "in it" as they came streaming over the Bushes Hill, when Lady Golightly showed in the van for a few moments, and between her and Lady Ronald, who challenged in the dip, the issue for a second seemed to lie; but Jeffery, judging his distance to a yard, came with a sort of Aldcroft rush with Belphebe, and Lord Hartington's victory took us back more than two decades, to the days when the "straw" was a dreaded ensign to all save followers of the Clifden fortunes. The result leaves the Oaks as open a race as before, and there is only Placida apparently standing in the way of all comers, so that we may see a goodly company descend through the "wishing gate" to the fateful hollow on the glorious first of June. Belphebe is not built on such a grand scale as many of her competitors in the One Thousand Guineas, and her mother Vaga will be remembered as dam of Vagabond, and other fairish champions of the Leybourne Grange colours. Her sire, Toxophilite, has got some useful ones in his day, and Musket was clearly an approved good stayer, so that Lord Hartington's filly is entitled to all respect for her Epsom race. The straw jacket was formidable throughout the day, for though none of its bearers besides Belphebe earned a winning bracket, Belgravia was second best to Full-Charge (another youngster hailing from Dewhurst) in the Selling Stakes, and Quicksilver occupied the same position to Bel Ange, rather a smart Julius filly in Prince Batthyany's stable. Carthusian took the T.Y.C. Welter from the useful Strathavon, and Father Matthew was induced to put his best foot forward in another of those everlasting selling races, with which Newmarket programmes are so liberally seasoned. Altogether, it was a fair week's sport, its weakness lying in the two-year-old element, from which some veritable rips and jades were stripped for action. The ground was in beautiful order, but the bitter east wind had set coats staring, and throats coughing galore, so that not a few horses were kept at home instead of risking the Siberian blasts on the Heath.

The gallant little Underhand has at last gone over to the majority, having completed his twenty-third year, and being, as the penny-a-liners say, in full possession of all his faculties to the last. Only the other day his name came before us as sire of Son of Nature, one of the last of his get; and it will be remembered that we described him, after our visit to Croft last year, as a splendid wreck, but still bearing himself defiantly to the last. Both Underhand and Lambton (who predeceased the "pitmens' favourite" only by a few months), were got by the Cure out of mares by Emilius, and were both the same stamp of horses, small, elegantly turned, and inclined to carry their heads high in the world, characteristics which they succeeded in imparting to most of their stock, none of which ever enjoyed the reputation of being able to stay, if we except The Spy, who was but a moderate horse after all, and Fervacques, another Northumberland Plate winner; and it is noteworthy that the great family successes have been achieved on Newcastle's Town Moor. "Unnyhand's" was a glorious handicap career, commencing as it did in 1857 with the Manchester Trade Cup at 7st. 10lb. and the Northumberland Plate at 6st. 11lb., no light burdens for a three-year-old "little'un," and then continuing with similar Newcastle successes in the two succeeding years, and finally winding up with a great Ebor victory at 9st. 11lb. in 1859. Old Tom Winteringham was as fond of the horse as the proverbial Arab, and when he was led into the Doncaster Pad-dock some years since, he quite took the hearts of the Tykes by storm, though the "pony," as they were wont affectionately to

term him, was quite on a miniature scale, and it is narrated of him by the "Druid" how in his yearling days he and a companion had many a brush with the greyhounds, which certain of the stable attendants used to "set upon them reg'lar," greatly to the astonishment of the trainer to whom this artless tale was narrated in all its simplicity. The Stud-book contains the names of a couple only of his mares, most of them being deemed too small for breeding purposes, but we believe that The Spy is still amongst us to keep his sire's memory green in the affections of canny Newcastle among those that "go down into the pit."

From Cobham good accounts continue to reach us, and the shareholders may rest assured of a capital sale in June, should the present favourable weather continue, and no third edition of winter be forthcoming. Unless we greatly mistake, two Hermits will head the list of prices on the Saturday in Ascot week, and the manager entertains great hopes of sowing his Wild Oats profitably among the various training stables. Blair Athol is neither so strongly nor so favourably represented as usual, but his yearlings will doubtless command their usual satisfactory prices, and the mighty chestnut has some grand foals to his credit. Middle Park will open the ball on June 2, and the contents of its catalogue shall be duly reviewed in these pages before the Derby week, the labours of which Mr. Blenkiron's sale may be said to crown. What will become of Her Majesty's lot we know not, for they have been forestalled in their accustomed day by Mr. Gee, who will entertain all the sporting world at Dewhurst on the 9th of the leafy month, his yearlings being reserved, as usual, for the Wednesday in the July week. Mr. Watson, of Waresley, tells us that Cathedral has wonderfully improved since his arrival in Worcestershire, and that he has quite shaken off the infirmity which once threatened to reduce him to Newminster's condition. The yearlings are now making way very fast, and have hardly been kept indoors for a single day during the past winter, by which means they have become thoroughly hard and seasoned. There is among them a brother to Tam O'Shanter which, if report speaks true, is to open our eyes "pretty considerable" at Doncaster, and already we hear rumours flying about in favour of an elder brother at Middleham, yclept Tam Glen, and a prospective bearer of the Jardine-Johnstone blue and silver. At Shepherd's Bush Lord Lyon has been getting some first class mares, a compliment he well deserves, and should he attain the distinction of siring an Oaks winner, there is no saying what the covering fee of his lordship may be another season.

Chester has always succeeded in maintaining its unenviable notoriety in connection with the scratchings, ropings, and milkings with which the Turf is now, happily for its best interests, troubled in a far less degree than formerly; but the striking out of Hampton is a piece of work fully worthy of being brought into comparison with any transactions of the dark ages of racing to which we have alluded. Let us not mince words, but characterise Mr. Hobson's conduct as a very close imitation of that of Mr. Gomm in the notorious Fraulein case at Liverpool a year or two since. There is a vast deal too much of smoothing over these unpleasant episodes of Turf scandal, and although we are far from wishing to make capital out of so unpleasant a subject, there can be but one opinion among sincere well wishers to the cause of our national pastime as to the "little game" played with the horse we may appropriately designate as "unhappy Hampton." Unfortunately this is not the first untoward circumstance in connection with his withdrawal at the eleventh hour, and it appears uncommonly like "cutting off his nose to spite his face" in Mr. Hobson's case, since the holders (in nine cases out of ten the actual "forestallers") are not likely to be injured half so much in pocket as the owner of the horse is certain to be in reputation, which, after all, is something to be considered. The case of Woodlands is also an ugly one, and we have no desire to let the nobleman down easier than the commoner, the only circumstance (and that a very slight one) which can be pleaded in mitigation being that Woodlands never reached the scene of action, whither Hampton had been sent. As some explanation may be forthcoming, we shall "pause for a reply" until next week, when ample time will have been given for clearing up matters connected with this wretched scratching business. Of course apologists will be found among the toadies and flunkies who are always so ready to come to the rescue of a "swell," but we do not envy them their advocacy of such very hopeless causes.

Never has the Derby betting, weak enough at its best throughout the season, been so thoroughly paralyzed as now, and "nothing doing" is still the melancholy burden of the fielder's cry. Chamant stops the way most obstinately, and nothing is likely to oust him from his premiership, which he enjoys to the full as confidently as "Dizzy" himself. For the life of us we can find nothing (save Pellegrino) with a chance of lowering the imperial colours of red and blue, and after Morier's exhibition there is no great encouragement to back the Duke's reserve horse. At the same time it should be borne in mind that the task allotted to Tom Jennings of keeping his pet "cherry merr" for a month is one which most brethren of his craft would fain have resting on the shoulders of any but themselves, and some apprehensions might exist on this score, were it not that Chamant is never so well as when in hard work, and is so thoroughly sound that the state of the ground will make no difference to him. If he succeeds in winning the Derby, he will be the biggest horse (save perhaps Gladiateur) which has done the trick since Wild Dayrell's year, but that he is a truly made one no really good judge will be found to contend, and were it not for his distinguished performances, he would most assuredly be written down as a light, shelly, narrow customer, and condemned accordingly. Unless the chapter of accidents places him *hors de combat*, his opponents will hardly number more than in Doncaster's year, though we can hardly expect to find quality represented in such a degree as on that occasion.

The opening day on the Rhoddey gave no very substantial earnest of brilliant sport, the first brace of events being reduced to fields of three and two, the only moderate Extinguisher crediting Fred Bates with the Grosvenor, and the Welter being carried off by the venerable Hippias, who has turned his hand to more than one branch of racing. Another "everlasting," Bras de Fer, was made favourite for the City Stakes, but a couple of youngsters (hailing from Dewhurst and Cobham respectively) had the finish to themselves, Gwendoline disposing pretty cleverly of Empress of India. Nine were stripped for the time-honoured Mostyn Stakes, and Marie Seton, one of the reported smartest juveniles in Robert Peck's two year old "arsenal" was voted to the head of affairs, but Mr. Murphy's clever-looking filly was not "in it" with Dunmow, a colt for which we had a good word to say when we took our annual trip "across the Flat" of Essex to look over Lord Rosslyn's yearlings at Easton Lodge. Still it was rather a tight fit with Speculator (one of the Speculum tribe), and the lot cannot be made out more than moderate. The almost forgotten Anglesey colours were again in the van on Grey Friar in the Belgrave Cup, and the winner being a living illustration of the saying that horses run in all shapes, for no one would find out the son of Blue Mantle for his looks. Serape, by the same sire, is far more shapely and better furnished, and was too much for the calish looking Warrior, who grows commoner and more hopelessly ugly every time he strips for action. Robert Peck was determined to secure both the principal and ten per cent interest in the Vale Royal Stakes, wherein Grace gave a stone to Love Apple, who may be riper at a later period of the year, and was bred at Ment-

more, by Lord Clifden, from Tomato, so that her family connection are of no mean running order. The Cup field grew "shorter hour by hour" as one by one favourite and outsider fell away, and the ex-hurdler race Clonave, the sole remaining hope of Ireland, came in for substantial support in the interests of the afternoon's racing.

Numerous as are the instances on record of "old sinners" having "achieved the Cestrian wreath," we doubt whether any of them bore a worse character for uncertainty than the "unsubstantial Pageant," who has tried his luck in all kind of races and at all manner of distances. By most he was rated big and jolly after his hours of idleness in the winter, but perhaps this state of things suited his peculiar temperament, though it was hard lines for those who had followed him throughout to be put off the scent for once by his obviously gross condition. Being "in the vein," however, it is no wonder that he won with "ridiculous ease," while John Day performed consistently well, as is his wont. King Offa, a Danebury cast off, if we recollect rightly, won two races for Saunders, having been very cleverly patched up, and he must be one of the very few Camuscans now in training. Those two fair sisters, Water-Lily and Sabrina seem to have sadly deteriorated from their early promise, and the latter could not come anigh in the Combermere Stakes, won by the Irish-bred Antelope, and the first winning Monarch of the Glen we have seen on this side St. George's Channel. Grace keeps on winning, and Robert Peck would seem to favour the policy of his old master, Mr. Merry, in running out his two year olds for their engagements. Certainly there is little or nothing to be gained by the bottling-up process, and it is as well to "grasp the skirts of circumstance" while occasion permits. Altogether, a poorer day's sport on Chester's great day it has never been our lot to chronicle, and it is only the glamour of antiquity which still attracts race-goers to the banks of Dee, where the "fleecing" process still finds favour among thrifty landlords and housewives.

Of Newmarket Second Spring it would be useless to write at any length now, and it seems likely that the home stables will have things even more to themselves than during the last week's racing at head-quarters. Ersilia is heavily engaged during the week, and it will be hard lines indeed if she does not carry the brown jacket to the fore in one or more of the two-year-old encounters. With Epsom and Ascot close at hand, it is probable that most of the crack two-year-olds will be in reserve, and the events set down for decision on the Heath may be strangely enough described as of "mere local importance."

SKYLARK.

CRICKET, ATHLETICS, AQUATICS, &c.

THANKS to the slight change for the better in the weather, cricket, which has now set in with its usual severity, may be participated in and looked on at with some degree of enjoyment, compared with what was experienced last week. But before attempting to expatiate on a few matches at home, I must say a word on the match Australia v. England (eleven aside, be it borne in mind), which commenced at Melbourne on Thursday, March 15, and was not concluded until the following Monday, the result being a victory for the colonists by 47 runs. Pooley was unfortunately absent from the ranks of England, and Selby kept wicket in his place. Australia went in first, and, although no less than seven bowlers were tried, the total amounted to 245 before the ninth wicket fell, Bannerman, who retired owing to a smashed finger, scoring no less than 165 (not out). This performance is, of course, one to be highly proud of, but two different accounts thereof which have come under my notice give such varied opinions, that one is fairly puzzled to get at the real truth. One scribe characterises his innings as "without a chance," while another states that Shaw missed him off his own bowling, an easy catch. "Who shall decide when critics disagree?" England scored 196 in their first innings, Jupp contributing 63, Charlwood 36, and Hill 35 (not out). In their second innings, 104 was all Australia could put together, Shaw getting half the wickets for 38 runs. England now required 154 to win, but only managed to score 108; Selby 38, Ulyett 24, and Charlwood 13, being the chief scorers. Thus, as above, Australia won by 47 runs, and not one of the English eleven grudged them their well-earned victory.

Cambridge University had to put up with a four wickets defeat at the hands of an England Eleven last Saturday, they scoring 126 and 190 against 152 and 165 (six wickets) for England. For Cambridge D. Q. Steel batted well, as was expected of him, for 60 and 31, F. H. Mellor supporting him with 13 and 46, while C. Pigg added 2 and 39. "W. G." did not come off, his score being "a duck" and 44. His brother G. F., however, doubtless saved the match for his side, as although he only made 11 in the first innings, he contributed 52 (not out) in the second. Mr. T. S. Pearson played well for 45 and 32, a remark which applies equally to Mr. R. Hargreaves—46 and 5 (not out). In the match at Oxford between the University Eleven and Sixteen Freshmen a draw was the result on Saturday, after two days play, the Sixteen scoring 122, of which A. S. Bennett contributed 41 (not out) and H. Fowler 23. The Eleven made 246 for nine wickets, H. R. Webbe (the captain's brother) putting together 127, J. H. Savory 33, and E. W. Wallington 23. Buckland and Heath bowled well for the Seniors, as did Jellicoe for the Freshmen. Monday and Tuesday were set apart at Lords' for the match of the Marylebone Club and ground against 22 colts of England, with Tom Hearne as Captain. Success eventually declared itself in favour of the Colts, the greater number of whom hailed from Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire. The twenty-two scored 114 and 131 against 93 and 131 for Marylebone, 21 runs being the balance in favour of the twenty-two, for whom S. Hind, jun. (Notts), J. H. Marriott (Notts), G. Lane (Notts), W. Flowers (Notts), A. Thewlis (Yorks), J. Castle (Yorks), and H. Hutton (Durham) showed best forms in batting, while in bowling G. Freeman (Notts) was most successful as regards obtaining wickets; but Flowers, Lane, and Hind, also from Notts, displayed promise of future usefulness. The fielding of the Colts generally was above the average; as an example I may mention that Mr. W. G. Grace and Mr. T. S. Pearson were over an hour making 20 against Hind and Lane, while it took the "leviathan" two hours and three quarters to compile his 54 runs in the second innings, and out of this number no less than 34 were singles.

Since my last there has been an *embarras de richesses* as regards fixtures for athletics in the home circuit, though but little scope has occurred for notable performances, and certainly no first-class feats have been recorded. St. Paul's School meeting came off at Lillie Bridge on Saturday last, the weather, though cold, being fine, and the attendance both numerous and *distingué*. Some of the present Paulines gave promise of future excellence, and, perhaps, the most interesting event was the 440 Yards Old Pauline Handicap, which was won by J. Shearman, L.A.C., from scratch, by three yards, in the excellent time of 51 1-5 sec; W. T. Macmurthrie, 30 yards, being second, and L. C. Ray, 35 yards, third. Shearman ran in splendid form, and, getting on terms with Macmurthrie twenty-five yards from home, won, as above stated, by three yards; a similar interval dividing second and third. The good field of 29 started for the 600 yards open handicap, and Toller, 115 yards, Roberts 95, and A. W. Shepard 80, finished

as placed; Toller being in front throughout, and winning by half a yard, the remainder of the field being somewhat scattered. Time, 1 min 29 2-5 sec. At the conclusion of the sports, Mr. J. W. Shepard distributed the prizes to the victors. On the same day Merchant Taylors' School Sports were held at the grounds of Charterhouse Square, and of the present members P. H. Wells, who won four first and two second prizes, appeared to most advantage. C. M. Champneys won both the 880 yards and one mile challenge cup with consummate ease. A strangers' handicap (440 yards) was won by W. L. Williams, 35 yards, W. Angle, 28, running second, and A. Swift, 30, third.

On Monday the meeting of the Royal School of Mines was held at Stamford Bridge, and, though the weather was much more genial than heretofore this month, the attendance was somewhat limited, and a rather lengthy card was not run through till nearly dusk. Nothing calls for much comment except the two Strangers' Races (120 and 880 yards handicaps respectively), the former race in its final heat producing a triple dead-heat, which, being run off, resulted in the victory of H. England, Arabs F.C., 7 yards' start, by a foot, H. P. Clarke, Gipsies F.C., 9 yards, beating W. Macbean, L.A.C., 8 1/2 yards, by half a yard, in 12 1/2 sec. In the 880 yards handicap, J. Dillon, St. Martin's F.C., 60 yards, in a field of ten, utilised his start, ultimately winning by three yards from G. L. Parrott, L.A.C., 45 yards. Time, 1 min 58 1/2 sec. Not to be hypercritical, I may remark that the starter would benefit by more experience in this line, as, in the first of the strangers' handicaps, H. Macdougall, L.A.C., had by no means the worst of his start, both in the trial and final heats, though crowded out, and unable to get through in the latter. Starting by report of pistol is evidently intended to obviate the reiteration of the question, "Are you ready?" which only leads to continual breaks away; and some athletes, who ought to know better, are only too glad to seize the opportunity thus afforded for "poaching" a couple or more yards.

On Tuesday evening, the members of the L.A.C. decided their second club handicap meeting, the events for decision being 220 and 180 yards. The first produced six trials and a final heat, which latter resulted thus: F. W. Freeman, 6 yards, first; H. S. Orton, 14 yards, second; and W. P. Phillips, 1 yard, third; won by one and a half yard, half a yard between second and third. Time, 23 2-5 sec. In the fifth heat, C. A. W. Gilbert was rightly put back a yard for repeatedly getting over his mark. The 180 yards was run in a single heat, A. Koch, 6 yards, proving the winner by three-quarters of a yard from W. Rye, 12 yards, second; J. Waddell, 12 yards, third; and A. Tiliard, 1 yard, fourth. Time, 20 1/2 sec. I should mention that this race was limited to veterans over thirty years of age, or to members who had not run since 1873, or been elected prior to 1874, while the 220 yards was open to all members. Much impatience was manifested by the old 'uns, whose form at the start strongly savoured of a T.Y.C. scurry, and they should bear in mind that on them ought to devolve the duty of setting their juniors an example.

An amateur walking match, for a silver cup, was decided on Monday evening last on the Uxbridge Road, the distance being ten miles, between B. Nickels, jun. (L.A.C.), and W. Frith, of Toronto, Canada, the latter receiving 15 min start. Nickels, whom the turnpike road seemed to suit, walked in excellent form, and, passing the Canadian 100 yards from home, won a grand race by twenty yards.

Although going, perhaps, somewhat out of my beaten track, "internationality" to the fore induces me to make mention of a pigeon-shooting match which took place at the Gun Club, Shepherd's Bush, on Tuesday, between Messrs. Howard S. Jaffray and Ira Paine, the well-known Yankee champion, on the part of America, and Mr. W. Dudley Ward and Captain Shelley on the side of Old England, the match being for £25 each, at twenty-five birds each, 28 yards rise. The result was the lowering of the "Stars and Stripes" and the victory of the Britishers by eight birds.

The adage, "great cry and little wool," may be fairly quoted in connection with the 100 miles (bicycle) championship, with £50 added, between J. Keen, D. Stanton, S. Rawson, W. Cann, and W. Thomas, advertised for Monday last at Lillie-bridge, as only the first and third of the above-named contended, a third starter being permitted to enter in the person of an individual named Howard. The contest needs little description, as Keen going clear away was one mile to the good when eleven were traversed, and two miles at the completion of the twenty-second. Keen rode about thirty-three miles and three-quarters in his first two hours, and shortly after completing a little over thirty-four miles halted about 8 min for a rub down, Rawson meanwhile picked up a little, but Keen soon went away again, completing the first lap of his forty-fourth mile exactly five miles and six yards ahead. Henceforth Keen was never afterwards approached, and though both men subsequently took another short rest, they finished abreast, Keen then being seven miles and one lap ahead of the plucky young Derbyshire bicyclist, whose riding throughout, but more especially during the last twenty-five miles, pleased the spectators hugely. Both men were wonderfully fresh at the finish, and though Keen's time was 16 min 11 sec slower than Stanton's 6 hours 44 min 10 sec, it must be remembered that he was never extended during this contest, while his time from fifty-five to seventy-five miles is the best on record.

I regret to have to state that Cook's benefit, which took place at the Guildhall Tavern on Monday afternoon and evening last, did not prove anything like the success his friends expected, the saloon at neither entertainment being at all well filled. The reason of Cook having to give up so desirable a *locale* as that at the "Guildhall," is much to be regretted, and I am sure all his friends will join with me in wishing that he may be able to obtain other premises equally advantageous. In the afternoon Cook gave John Bennett 90 points start in 250, but suffered defeat by no less than 146 points. T. Taylor then beat Stanley by 83 in a game of 250, and Fred Bennett conquered H. Evans by 14 points, both the last games being played on level terms. The champion then played Shorter the best of nine games of pyramids, giving a ball and owing one in each game. Cook won five games right off—by 8 to 7, 8 to 7, 8 to 3, 8 to 7, and 8 to 3. In the evening Stanley and Shorter beat Cook and Taylor in a four-handed match of 1,000 up, the first-named couple receiving 150 start. Shorter was in grand form, and scored 231 (59 spots), 174 (51 spots), and 177 (52 spots) unfinished, and he and Stanley won by 328 points, the game only lasting 1 hour and 50 minutes.

Beyond mentioning the fact that Green, of Hammersmith, and Hepplewhite, of Newcastle, meet once more, on Monday, to row a scullers' race from Putney to Mortlake, the stakes being £100 a-side; there is little more worthy of notice in the aquatic world. On the occasion of their last race, it may be remembered that the North countryman forced the pace, but was done at his own game a little beyond Hammersmith Bridge, where he had to be lifted out of his boat, leaving Green to finish at his leisure. This week I have seen both men at work, and as the Londoner has shown great improvement, and looks very fit, thanks to the care taken of him by his trainer, and as Hepplewhite has been suffering from a bad hand, I shall stand Green again. The Oxford eight-oared May races commenced on Wednesday evening, but I must defer remarks until they are nearer completion. EXON.

NEWTON SUMMER MEETING.—In an advertisement on another page will be found particulars of the closing of stakes, &c., at the above meeting.

MR. WALTER BENTLEY,

As "Baillie Nicol Jarvie," the subject of our artist's illustration, is a young actor of the greatest promise, who has made remarkably rapid strides in his profession. Concerning him, Mr. E. L. Blanchard writes—"Those who favour Mr. Francis Galton's theories respecting hereditary talent would like to know that Mr. Walter Bentley belongs to a family distinguished for the marked ability of its various members. Walter Bentley is the fourth son of the well-known divine and platform orator, the Rev. Dr. Begg, of Edinburgh; but it is not generally known that through his mother, Maria, third daughter of the late Rev. Ferdinand Faithfull, rector of Headley, Surrey, he is related to three ladies more or less famous in the literary and artistic world. Miss Elizabeth Faithfull is an apt Sanscrit scholar, she is also one of Mr. Glaisher's correspondents, and her astronomical and meteorological notes have obtained praise in high quarters. Another sister, Mrs. (Esther Faithfull) Fleet, has produced some of the most exquisite illuminations of the day. Her "Te Deum Laudamus" (dedicated, by permission, to the Queen, who inspected the original designs at Windsor,) cannot be surpassed in wealth of colour or delicacy of finish. Last, but not least, Mrs. Begg's youngest sister is Miss Emily Faithfull, who becoming interested in the condition of women, has devoted herself to the extension of their remunerative spheres of labour with such persistency and success that her name is known wherever the English language is spoken." Arriving in London three years ago from the colonies, quite an unknown actor, where however he had gained a large experience, both as a stock actor, and as a manager of the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Auckland, New Zealand, he has obtained by dint of hard study and careful development of natural advantages, a position such as is rarely arrived at in so short a time; and of which, referring to his performance of Clarence, in *Richard III.*, the *Daily Telegraph* said:—"By his admirable rendering of Clarence's dream he secured an immediate recognition of his elocutionary powers, and won honours in a position that a young actor might justly feel some professional pride in attaining at an early stage in his career." Speaking of his performance of Baillie Nicol Jarvie, the *Hawick Express* says:—"Mr. Bentley's Baillie was the best exposition of this part we have ever seen. His Scotch is perfect, and the dry characteristic humour of the worldly minded but good-hearted Baillie, is perfectly understood and ably delineated by him." Mr. Bentley has been a member of Mrs. Bateman's Lyceum company since the production of Mr. Tennyson's *Queen Mary*, playing such parts as Noailles, the French ambassador in that play; Laertes; Malcolm Christian, in *The Bells*; Lord Moray, in *Charles I.*; Modus, in *The Hunchback*; and Clarence, in *Richard III.*, in all of which, but more particularly the last, he has sustained his reputation as an earnest student and an accomplished artist." The *Scotsman* says of him:—"On the whole, Mr. Bentley's is an intellectual and forcible impersonation of Hamlet, and with a little more filling up in some parts and toning down in others, it might be pronounced one of the best on the stage." Mr. Bentley appears on Monday next in Edinburgh as Othello, and subsequently as Hamlet, Shylock, Macbeth, Richelieu, &c.; and also intends, we believe, to produce an original poetic tragedy, which is spoken very highly of by those who have read it. He will be supported by a specially organised company; and, after making a summer tour, we understand he rejoins Mrs. Bateman's company, in support of Mr. Henry Irving.

PRINCIPAL RACES PAST.

NEWMARKET SPRING MEETING.—(Concluded.)

THURSDAY.

A HANDICAP PLATE of 100 sovs, added to 5 sovs each; winners extra; Criterion course, was won by Mr. Joseph Dawson's b b Lacy by Lacysdes, dam by Melbourne out of Miss Whip, 6 yrs, 8st 7lb (C. Wood), beating (by ten lengths) Count Festetic's Eberhard, 4 yrs 8st 12lb (Parry); Mr. M. Dawson's Bella, 4 yrs, 8st 7lb (W. Rogers), and six others.

3 to 1 agst Carthusian, 4 to 1 agst Sweet Note, 5 to 1 agst Sabrina, 8 to 1 agst Joker and Lacy, and 10 to 1 agst Eberhard.

A PLATE of 100 sovs, added to a Sweepstakes of 10 sovs each; R.M., was won by Mr. Cooper's b c Breechloader by Macaroni out of Beachy Head, 5 yrs, 7st 11lb (Groom) (Wood), beating (by three parts of a length) Mr. Kruckenberg's Littlehampton, 3 yrs, 8st 7lb (Groom) (Lemaire), and another. 5 to 2 on Breechloader, who was bought in for 450 guineas.

A MAIDEN PLATE of 100 sovs, added to 10 sovs each; last 5 fur of D.M., was won by Lord Ellesmere's b c Dalgarno by Scottish Chief out of Becky Sharpe, 8st 10lb (F. Archer), beating (by a head) Lord Hartington's Quicksilver, 8st 7lb (H. Jeffery), Mr. R. C. Naylor's La Flanceuse, 8st 7lb (Morris), and five others. 5 to 2 agst Glasgow, 4 to 1 agst Dalgarno and La Flanceuse, 6 to 1 agst Miccus, and 7 to 1 agst Quicksilver.

A SELLING STAKES of 100 sovs each, with 100 added; last 5 fur of D.M. was won by Duke of Hamilton's b c Conquest by Pero Gomez out of War Queen, 2 yrs, 6st 8lb (Groom) (Lemaire), beating (by four lengths) Mr. A. Williams's Lady Hannah, 3 yrs, 8st 8lb (Groom) (T. Cannon); Mr. Howsin's Tortoise, 3 yrs, 8st 8lb (Groom) (Morbey), and two others.

2 to 1 agst Conquest, 9 to 1 agst Tortoise, 5 to 1 agst Lady Hannah and Narbo, and 7 to 1 agst Lola. A length between second and third. The winner was sold to Lord Vivian for 520 guineas.

THE STAND HANDICAP of 15 sovs each, 10 ft, with 100 added; Bretby Stakes course, was won by Prince Soltykoff's ch f Meg Merrilies by Macgregor out of Meteor, 3 yrs, 8st 13lb (Lemaire), beating (by three parts of a length) Count F. de Lagrange's La Sautouse, 5 yrs, 8st 4lb (car 8st 6lb) (J. Gouter), and another.

5 to 4 agst La Sautouse, 2 to 1 agst Meg Merrilies, and 3 to 1 agst Mavis.

THE FIRST SPRING TWO YEAR OLD STAKES of 10 sovs each, with 100 added; 800s course, was won by Duke of Hamilton's b c Dare Devil by Saunterer out of I Dare, 8st 12lb (Custance), beating (by a length) Mr. C. Bromberg's Handeck, 8st 7lb (T. Cannon), Lord Exeter's Knight of the Vale, 8st 12lb (Constable), and another. 9 to 4 each agst Dare Devil and Knight of the Vale, 5 to 2 agst Queen of Scots, and 6 to 1 agst Handeck. A neck between 2nd and 3rd.

THE SECOND WELTER HANDICAP PLATE of 100 sovs, added to 10 sovs each; R.M., was won by Count Festetic's b c Woodbridge by Suffolk out of Light Drum, 3 yrs, 8st 2lb (Parry), beating (by two lengths) Mr. Gretton's Polydorus, 3 yrs, 8st 5lb (T. Chaloner), Mr. R. Howett's Lady Clifton, 5 yrs, 8st 8lb (Skelton), and two others. 2 to 1 agst Polydorus, 5 to 2 agst Woodbridge, 4 to 1 agst Lady Clifton, and 5 to 1 agst Cream Cheese.

THE BURWELL HANDICAP of 10 sovs each, h ft, with 100 added; A.F., was won by Prince Batthyany's b c Cerberus by Typhoeus or Loiterer out of Sunnylocks, 4 yrs, 7st 2lb (Luke), beating (by a length) Mr. H. Saville's Blankney, 3 yrs, 6st 7lb (Hammond), Prince Soltykoff's Tassel, 4 yrs, 8st 11lb (T. Cannon), and five others. 100 to 30 each agst Tassel and Cerberus, 6 to 1 agst Douceuse, 100 to 15 each agst Blankney and Donna, and 7 to 1 agst Jester. Two lengths between 2nd and 3rd.

FRIDAY.

A PLATE of 200 sovs; weight-for-age, &c.; Cesarewitch course. Mr. H. Saville's b c by Parmesan out of May Morning, 3 yrs, 6st 4lb Hopkins 1

Mr. T. Jennings's Sheldrake, 3 yrs, 7st Hopkins 1
Prince Soltykoff's New Holland, 5 yrs, 10st T. Cannon 3
5 to 4 on the May Morning colt, 2 to 1 agst Sheldrake, and 5 to 1 agst New Holland. Won by four lengths; a bad third.

A SELLING STAKES of 10 sovs each, with 100 added; D.M., was won by Mr. C. Samuda's b c Father Matthew by Victorious out of Lemonade, 3 yrs, 6st 9lb (Groom) (J. Jarvis), beating (by a length) Mr. G. Kruckenberg's Littlehampton, 3 yrs, 6st 9lb (Groom) (Hopkins), Mr. A. Williams's Lady Hannah, 3 yrs, 6st 9lb (Groom) (Lemaire), and another. 11 to 8 agst Father Matthew, who was sold to Mr. Kruckenberg for 170 guineas.

THE THIRD WELTER HANDICAP PLATE of 100 sovs added to 10 sovs each; T.Y.C., was won by Lord Lonsdale's b g Carthusian by Beadsman out of Ischia, 4 yrs, 8st 2lb (F. Archer), beating (by a neck) Mr. R. R. Christophers's Strathavon, 5 yrs, 9st 2lb (Hunt), Count F. de Lagrange's La Sautouse, 5 yrs, 9st 8lb (J. Gouter), and seven others. 5 to 2 agst Carthusian, 100 to 30 agst Strathavon, 8 to 1 agst Mousquetaire, and 10 to 1 "bar three."

A TWO YEAR OLD SELLING STAKES of 10 sovs each, with 100 sovs; last half of D.M. was won by Sir G. Chetwynd's Full Charge, 8st 10lb (F. Webb), beating (by three parts of a length) Lord Hartington's Belgravia, 8st 10lb (H. Jeffery), Mr. H. Baltazzi's f by Lord Cliden out of Gemma, 8st 6lb (Maidment), and six others. 2 to 1 agst the Gemma filly, 3 to 1 agst Full Charge, 7 to 1 agst Wideawake, 8 to 1 agst Clyde, and 10 to 1 agst Fair Penitent. Sold to Captain Macell for 300 guineas.

THE ONE THOUSAND GUINEAS STAKES of 100 sovs each, h ft, for

three year old fillies; 8st 10lb each; the second received 200 sovs, and the third saved his stake; R.M.; 84 subs.

Lord Hartington's b f Belphebe (sister to Stray Shot) by Toxophilite out of Vaga, 8st 10lb H. Jeffery 1
Mr. T. Ansley's Lady Ronald, 8st 10lb F. Archer 2
Lord Falmouth's Lady Golightly, 8st 10lb F. Archer 3
Mr. C. Alexander's Briglia, 8st 10lb Morbey 0
Prince Batthyany's Magnolia, 8st 10lb Morris 0
Lord Bradford's Manoeuvre, 8st 10lb Maidment 0
Mr. Gerard's Palm Flower, 8st 10lb Constable 0
Mr. J. H. Houldsworth's Morgiana, 8st 10lb T. Osborne 0
Mr. R. James's Nitocris, 8st 10lb T. Chaloner 0
Mr. T. Jennings's Plaisante, 8st 10lb C. Archer 0
Sir F. Johnstone's Miriam, 8st 10lb T. Cannon 0
Sir J. Johnstone's Lent Lily, 8st 10lb J. Osborne 0
Sir W. Lethbridge's Tribute, 8st 10lb C. Custance 0
Mr. W. R. Marshall's Dee, 8st 10lb Hunt 0
Mr. M. H. Sanford's Start, 8st 10lb Huxtable 0
Mr. Saville's Gavotte, 8st 10lb J. Gouter 0
Mr. Trentham's Mirobolante, 8st 10lb C. Wood 0
Duke of Westminster's Helena, 8st 10lb F. Webb 0
Lord Zetland's Spiegelschiff, 8st 10lb J. Snowden 0

Notting: 100 to 30 agst Lady Golightly, 7 to 2 agst Palm Flower, 10 to 1 each agst Morgiana and Helena, 11 to 1 agst Miriam, 100 to 8 agst Plaisante, 100 to 6 each agst Tribute and Nitocris, 20 to 1 agst Belphebe, and 33 to 1 agst any other. Plaisante jumped off with a slight lead of Gavotte for a quarter of a mile, when the latter dropped back, and left Nitocris, Miriam, Lady Golightly, and Tribute in attendance on Jennings's filly. At the Bushes Hill Plaisante put the steam on so full that the line broke up "like magic," and as they made the descent Lady Ronald, Lady Golightly, and Belphebe came out in pursuit of the pioneer, clear of Miriam, Tribute and Briglia. In the bottom Plaisante was in difficulties, and Lady Ronald thence held a slight lead of the favourite until half way up, when Belphebe challenged them on the whip hand, and getting the best of it fifty yards from the chair she won a fine race by a neck; a head only separating second and third. About half a length clear of Lady Golightly, Plaisante was fourth, half a dozen lengths in advance of Briglia, who was followed home by Start, Spiegelschiff, and Palm Flower, these being separated by Tribute, Lent Lily, and Mirobolante from the remainder, who were pulling up, with Helena in the rear.

A TWO YEAR OLD STAKES of 10 sovs each, h ft, with 100 added; last half of R. V. was won by Prince Batthyany's b f Bel Ange by Julius out of St. Angela, 8st 7lb (Morris), beating (by three parts of a length) Lord Hartington's Quicksilver, 8st 7lb (H. Jeffery), Mr. R. James's Aurora, 8st 7lb (Morbey), Count de Bertheux's Mab, 8st 7lb (C. Archer), and three others. Even agst Bel Ange, 4 to 1 agst Aurora, 100 to 15 each agst Fiddle-string and Captain, and 8 to 1 agst Opoponax. The NEWMARKET STAKES, a subscription of 50 sovs each, for three year olds; D.M. Lord Falmouth's b c King Clovis by King Tom out of Gertrude by Saunterer, 8st 10lb. F. Archer. Walked over.

CHESTER SPRING MEETING.

TUESDAY.

THE GROSVENOR STAKES of 10 sovs each, with 100 added (about a mile and a quarter) was won by Mr. F. Bates's Extinguisher, by Lord Lyon—Curfew Bell, 3 yrs, 6st 7lb (L250), (Jones) beating (by a length); Mr. T. Wadlow's c by See-Saw—Kedran's dam, 3 yrs, 6st 7lb (L250), (Hopkins) and another. 7 to 4 on Extinguisher.

THE WYNSTAY WELTER HANDICAP of 10 sovs each, with 100 added; second saved stake, (1 mile 50 yards), was won by Lord Wilton's Hippias, by Gladiator—Lady Evelyn, aged, 10st 4lb, (F. Archer) beating Hestia, 5 yrs, 11st 2lb, by three lengths. 11 to 10 on Hestia.

THE CITY STAKES of 5 sovs each, with 100 added, five furlongs, was won by Mr. R. Howett's Gwendoline, by General Peel—Little Jemima, 2 yrs, 6st 6lb, (Hopkins) beating (by a neck), Mr. G. E. Paget's Empress of India, 2 yrs, 6st 6lb (Jarvis), Mr. J. Ambrey's Fulshaw, 3 yrs, 8st 5lb (Huxtable), and two others. 7 to 4 agst Bras de Fer, 100 to 30 each agst Raft and Gwendoline. A neck between second and third. The winner was sold to Mr. T. Green for 150 guineas.

THE MOSLYN STAKES of 15 sovs each, 10ft, with 400 added, for two-year-olds; colt, 8st 12lb; fillies, 8st 9lb; second received 10 per cent. T.Y.C. (three-quarters of a mile).

Lord Anglesey's Dunmow, by Cecrops—Rose of Tralee, 8st 12lb T. Cannon 1

Mr. Pennant's Speculator, 8st 12lb C. Custance 2

Mr. Bentley's Fame, 8st 9lb Skelton 3

Also ran: Fair Penitent, 8st 9lb; Balance, 8st 6lb; The Owl, 8st 12; Telford, 8st 12lb; Marie Seaton, 8st 6lb; Shotesham, 8st 6lb.

2 to 1 agst Marie Seaton, 3 to 1 agst Dunmow, 5 to 1 agst Speculator, 7 to 1 against Balance, and 8 to 1 agst The Owl. Won by a short head, three lengths between second and third.

THE BELGRAVE CUP of 200 sovs in specie, added to a handicap sweepstakes of 10 sovs each; second received 25 sovs. T.Y.C.

Lord Anglesey's Grey Friar, by Bluemantle—Recluse, by Hermit, 3 yrs, 7st 2lb J. Macdonald 1

Mr. T. Ansley's Water Lily, 4 yrs, 6st 12lb Andrews 2

Mr. Bowes's Twine the Plaiden, 4 yrs, 8st 4lb Grithth 3

Also ran: Dunblane, 4 yrs, 6st 9lb; Bramble, 3 yrs, 6st.

2 to 1 agst Grey Friar, 3 to 1 agst Twine the Plaiden, 5 to 1 agst Water Lily, and 100 to 15 agst Dunblane. Won by a length.

THE CURZON PLATE of 200 sovs, by subscription of 10 sovs each, with 100 added. Five furlongs.

Major Stapylton's Serape, by Bluemantle—My Mary, 3 yrs, 8st 2lb Constable 1

Mr. Gomm's Warrior, 3 yrs, 9st 10lb (inc 5lb ex) C. Custance 2

Mr. F. Hardinge's Brunswick, 5 yrs, 8st 11lb C. Archer 3

Also ran: Antelope, 4 yrs, 8st 11lb; Celosia, 4 yrs, 8st 11lb; Aragon, aged, 11st 11lb; Rosewater, 4 yrs, 9st 7lb.

3 to 1 agst Brunswick, 4 to 1 each agst Celosia and Warrior, 100 to 15 agst Serape, 7 to 1 each agst Antelope and Aragon, and 10 to 1 agst Rosewater. Won by two lengths: one between second and third.

THE VALE ROYAL STAKES of 10 sovs each, h ft, with 100 added, for two-year-old fillies, second received 10 per cent., five furlongs, was won by Mr. R. Peck's Grace, by Scottish Chief—Virtue, 9st 5lb (inc 5lb ex) (E. Webb), beating (by two lengths) Mr. R. Peck's Love Apple, 8st 5lb (J. Macdonald), and another. 5 to 1 on Grace.

WEDNESDAY.

THE MEMBERS' WELTER PLATE of 100 sovs, about seven furlongs, was won by Mr. W. Saunders's King Offa, by Cambusan—Dame Alice, aged, 8st 4lb (Constable), beating (by a neck) Mr. T. T. Drake's b f Decit, 4 yrs, 8st 6lb (F. Archer), and two others. Even on Decit, 3 to 1 agst Daventry, and 6 to 1 bar two.

THE DEE STAND CUP of 5 sovs each, with 100 added; second received 15 sovs, once round and distance, was won by Mr. F. Bates's b c Extinguisher, by Lord Lyon—Curfew Bell, 3 yrs, 8st 4lb (L500) (F. Cooke), beating (by three lengths) Mr. T. Ansley's Water Lily, 4 yrs, 8st 5lb (L500) (Constable); Mr. T. Wadlow's b c by See-Saw—Kedran's dam, 3 yrs, 8st (L500) (F. Archer), and two others. 5 to 4 agst Extinguisher, 7 to 4 agst Water Lily, 100 to 15 agst Uncle Tom, and 10 to 1 agst any other. A neck between second and third.

THE CHESTER TRADES CUP of 500 sovs, added to a handicap of 25 sovs each, 15 ft; second received 50 sovs; winners extra. Nearly two miles and a quarter. 60 subs.

Mr. Gretton's b g Pageant, by Elland—Panoply, 6 yrs, 7st 10lb.....Glover 1

Mr. Baltazzi's John Day, 4 yrs, 8st 11lb (inc 10lb ex).....Maidment 2

Lord Rosebery's Snail, aged, 8st 2lb Constable 3

Lord Ailesbury's Collingbourne, 3 yrs, 6st Gallon 4

Lord Wilton's Footstep, 4 yrs, 7st 13lb (inc 10lb ex) (car 8st).....F. Archer 0

Sir W. Nugent's Clonave, aged, 7st 3lb Miley 0

Mr. E. Potter's Newport, 4 yrs, 6st 11lb F. Jeffery 0

Mr. Bowes's Skotzka, 5 yrs, 6st 4lb Hopkins 0

Mr. A. Gwynne's Highland Laddie, 4 yrs, 6st.....Lemaire 0

Mr. J. Crick's Sans Keproche, 3 yrs, 5st 7lb.....Heather 0

9 to 4 agst Snail, 9 to 2 agst Skotzka, 5 to 1 agst Footstep, 9 to 1 agst John Day, 10 to 1 agst Collingbourne, 100 to 6 each agst Sans Reproche and Pageant, 20 to 1 agst Clonave, and 25 to 1 agst Highland Laddie. Won by four lengths; John Day beating Snail for second by three. At a long interval Collingbourne finished fourth, a neck in advance of Clonave, who was half a length before Sans Reproche, the last lot, beaten a long way, being Footstep, Newport, Highland Laddie, and Skotzka, who were separated by wide intervals.

THE COMBERMERE STAKES of 10 sovs each, with 150 added; the second received 25 sovs. T.Y.C. was won by Mr. Garnham's f Antelope, 4 yrs, 8st 3lb (Morbey), beating (by a short head) Mr. Bryson's Herald, 5 yrs, 7st 12lb (Glover), Mr. D. Pennant's b c Distingue, 3 yrs, 6st 6lb (car 7st) (F. Jeffery), and four others. 3 to 1 each agst Herald and Sabrina, 100 to 30 agst Miss Lacy, and 4 to 1 agst Distingue.

THE EATON STAKES of 5 sovs each, with 100 added. Five furlongs was won by Mr. W. Saunders's King Offa, aged, 9st 9lb (Constable), beating (by two lengths) Mr. Tulk's b m Red Rose, 5 yrs, 9st 7lb (Glover), Mr. T. Green's b f Gwendoline, 2 yrs, 6st 7lb (car 6st 8lb) (Morgan), and five others. 5 to 1 each agst Gwendoline and Queen-land, and 10 to 1 agst King Offa. The winner was sold to T. Ansley for 170gs.

THE TENTH BEAUFORT BIENNIAL STAKES of 10 sovs each, with 100 added; for two-year-olds; the second received 10 p.c. Half a mile.

Mr. Gee's ch f Grace by Scottish Chief—Virtue, 9st 12lb (inc 10lb ex) F. Webb 1

Mr. Johnstone's b f by The Miner—Lady Nyassa, 8st 9lb G. Cooke 2

Sir G. Chetwynd's b c The Flyer, 8st 12lb Constable 3

5 to 1 on Grace, who won in a canter by three lengths.

MR. PEDDIE'S address is 2, Place Frédéric Sauvage, Boulogne-sur-Mer.—ADVT.

A DERBY OUTSIDER.—For a horse who will upset all the favourites, see "Huccaneer" in next Saturday's *Licensed Victualler's Guardian*, price 2d. Mind you get the *Guardian*.—[ADVT.]

ANTELOPE HUNTING.

THE greatest variety of the graceful antelope species is to be found between the Limpopo and Zambesi Rivers of Southern Africa, where vast herds of these beautiful animals are frequently to be seen. During the *trek-brokkon*, or periodical migration of game, the colonists witness them passing in thousands upon thousands over the face of the country, travelling rapidly in search of water, the lack of which is the prevailing curse of these savage regions. An old contributor to these pages, now, alas, no more, says, "at a single *coup-d'œil* may be seen mixed multitudes of the graceful spring-bok, the brindled gnu, the red and yellow hart-beeste, the purple sassaybe, the peach-bloom coloured gemsbok, the roan antelope, the corkscrew horned koodoo, the white-faced bles-bok, the many-striped zebra, the agile quagga, intermingled with troops of unwieldy eland, flocks of ostriches,

and countless varieties of smaller animals, as Sir William Harris wrote—

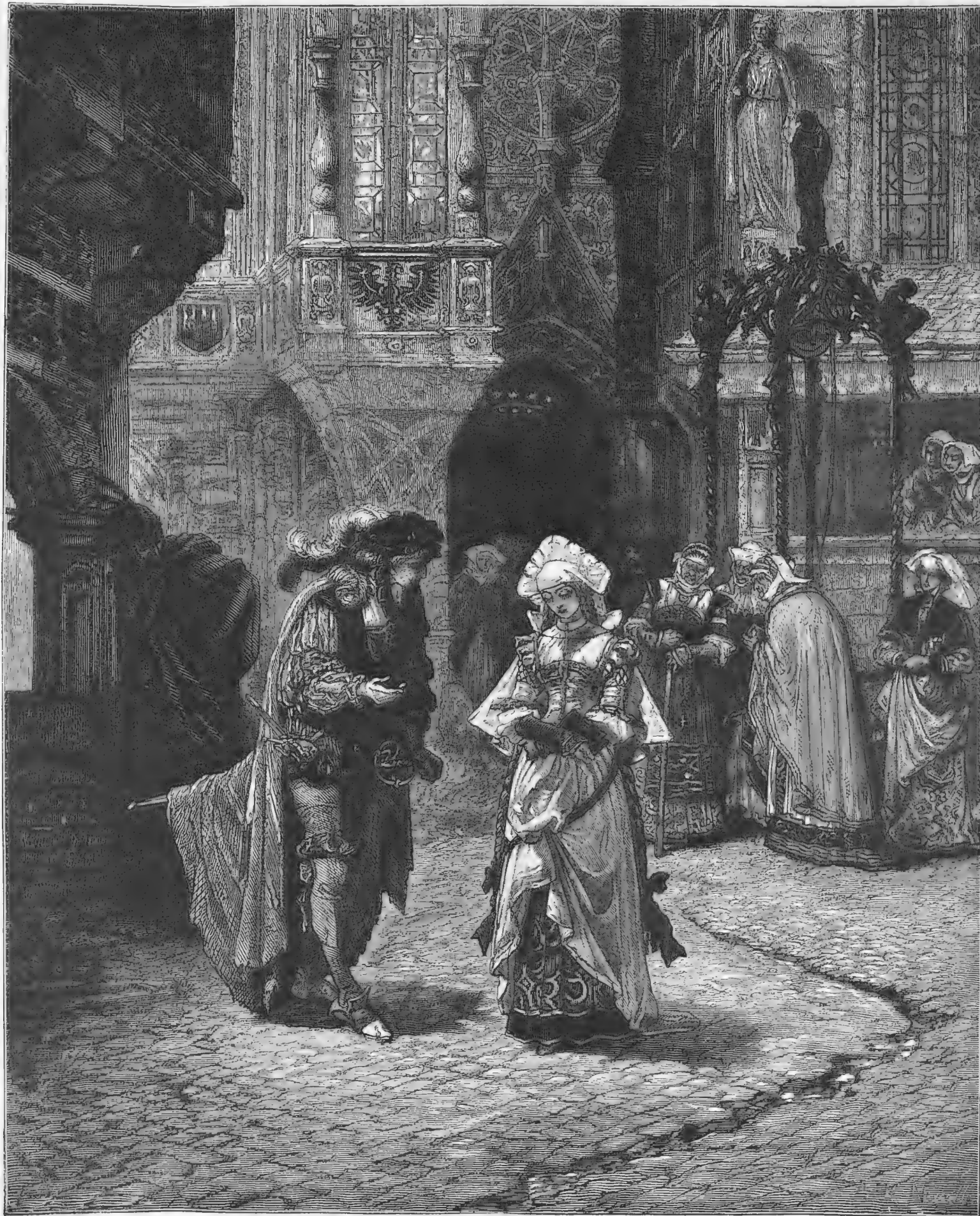
Rolling and blackening, swarms succeeding swarms,
With deeper murmurs and more hoarse alarms,
Dusky they spread, in close embodied crowds,
And o'er the vale descend in living clouds.

To form any estimate of their numbers on such occasions is, it is said, impossible, and the havoc they commit in their passage is like that of a swarm of locusts. Cultivated fields, which smiled in the morning light rich with glowing promise, are trampled in a few hours into the dust, and the pasture which has fed the farmer's numerous flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, are suddenly rendered barren. Gordon Cumming has given us a forcible description of a trek-brokkon, in which he estimates the ground they covered to be in breath about half-a-mile. Such splendid opportunities as these periodical migrations afford are, you may be sure, never overlooked by the enthusiastic hunter.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BELFAST, ATHLETIC CLUB.

PATRONS:—His Grace the Duke of Leinster, his Excellency the Earl of Dufferin, the Right Hon. Lord Lurgan, K.P., Sir Richard Wallace, Bart., M.P., the Rev. the President of the Queen's College, Belfast.

The annual meeting of the above prosperous club was held on May 5th, upon the magnificent ground of the North of Ireland C.C., at Ormean, Belfast, under the most favourable circumstances. Throughout the entire day the sun shone in unclouded splendour, causing the air to feel genial and springlike, and attracting to the field a very large, enthusiastic, and fashionable gathering. The University sports have been invariably largely patronised by the fair sex, and the "ladies challenge cup" is conspicuous amongst all the other valuable prizes for its gracefulness of design, and richness of execution; but never before do we remember seeing



SCENES FROM FAMOUS PLAYS AND OPERAS.—I. "FAUST" (MEETING OF FAUST AND MARGUERITE).

the spacious pavilion and adjoining promenade so crowded with the rank and beauty of the city and its neighbourhood. The attendance of the general public has seldom, if ever, been exceeded at an Irish athletic meeting. The programme was most comprehensive, containing twenty-six events, four only of which were confined to club members. The chief interest evidently centred round the one and two-mile contests, for both of which competitions, Warburton, Cobwell C.C.; Duckett, Stoke V.A.C., and Gibb, London A.C., were entered. If we are not mistaken, this is the first time that Messrs. Warburton and Gibb have met, and the races named lay between them, as Duckett did not put in an appearance, although we are informed he had arrived in Belfast the day previously. The mile was first run, Gibb taking the lead immediately, showed a gain of 10 yards fully, at the end of the first lap (440 yards). Every stride improved his position, and he passed the

tape, hands down, fully 40 yards before Warburton, amidst the vociferous and repeated cheers of the thousands who crowded the ground. Time 4 min. 38 1-5th sec. The prize for this contest was a unique and valuable time-piece, presented by Lord Lurgan. The two mile race was a repetition of Mr. Gibbs's preceding victory, he passing the judge 80 or 90 yards in front of Warburton, whose defeat has gained him but little sympathy on this side of the Channel, for reasons well known to himself and the great majority of attendants at athletic sports. Time, 9min 50sec. The prize for this event is the Queen's College Challenge Cup. The four miles walking race brought three competitors to the scratch, including John Miles, of Liverpool, who, however, succumbed in the fifth lap to a local crack, G. F. McFael, who was declared the winner. Time, 32min 44sec. The other events worthy of notice are the two miles

bicycle race, in which T. Sabin, Coventry B.C., proved too good for seven antagonists, amongst which was A. H. Pring, the Irish champion, who finished a good second; time, 7min 32sec; and the 1,000 yards steeplechase won by a local celebrity, J. S. Ferguson, N.I.C.C., who promises to be one of the best steeplechasers in the kingdom. J. Waddington, London A.C., was conceded 40 yards by Ferguson, but failed to beat the scratch man. The other events presented but little features of interest, being mainly confined to locals; they were, however, spiritedly contested, and brought to the fore a lot of new blood, which on the whole promises fairly. The arrangements were most satisfactorily carried out by a large body of efficient and courteous stewards, whose efforts, we trust, will be annually appreciated as highly as they appeared to be on last Saturday. The prizes were given away by Mrs. R. N. Batt.

OUR CAPTIOUS CRITIC.

THAT tiny glove-box of a theatre, the Folly, does not give sufficient scope for the antics of so extensive a burlesque company as Lydia Thompson's. Nevertheless, in the confined space they all manage to exercise their grotesque or graceful functions in a generally satisfactory manner. And in respect of these two elements, the graceful and the grotesque, seldom has an extravaganza company been combined to greater perfection than that which now occupies the stage of the Folly.

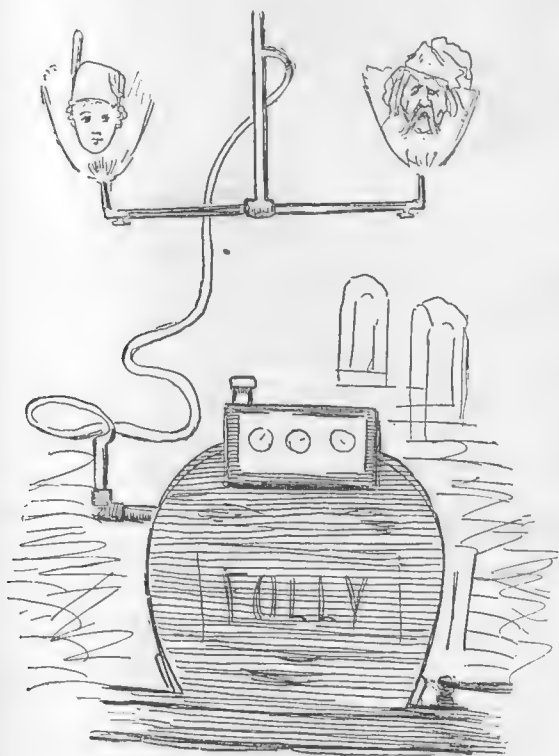
On the side of the graceful there is an amount and a variety of



eminine beauty that bewilders while it charms. I confess I am the reverse of indifferent to the merely sensuous pleasure of gazing upon pretty women; and where, in addition to their natural charms, they possess the graces of art and fanciful costume, I feel disposed to ejaculate with the poet (Oliver Goldsmith, I believe):—

When lovely women at the Folly
Their charms of face and limbs display,
What sight can make one feel more jolly,
Or send one more serene away?

It may be that there are more exalted uses to which a theatre can be put than to serve as the frame for luxurious living pictures,



citizenesses who illustrate the shifting scenes of the extravaganza. Dreamfully, ever and anon I murmur with Mr. Fosskin Tubbs, in *Pink Dominos*, "Pretty souls!" Nor do I feel that my moral susceptibilities undergo any violence, or that, indeed, they are affected in any way whatsoever. I grant you I am no great authority upon distinctions of morality. Indeed, I freely acknowledge I have latterly abandoned myself to a pagan tone of feeling. How long it will last depends of course upon physical conditions such as digestion, balmy May weather and the state of my exchequer. But while it lasts it is very pleasant. So I can assure you that I shall continue my lotos-eating until it disagrees with me. After that probably I will put sackcloth on my limbs and powder my locks with ashes—cry "piece, piece!" where there is no piece, and generally prove the sincerity of my repentance. In the meantime I can be accused of nothing worse than a tendency towards Folly.

The burlesque of *Oxygen*, as I think I once before remarked, is rather an improvement upon those which preceded it, in some important respects. It has a sort of coherent plot running through it for example, and is not merely a number of irresponsible scenes tacked together. I do not say that the legends of Doctor Ox and his potent laughing-gas might not have been made more of by Mr. Reece. But for the purpose it was intended to serve, its workmanship is good. The fact of this burlesque having a more defined construction than the Folly burlesques that have gone before it is doubtless accountable for its comparative freedom from "gag," which commodity was, in truth, mainly responsible for the success of *Bluebeard*, &c. "Oxygen" has, however, gained much in liveliness since it was first produced. As Prince Fritz of Virgumen, Lydia Thompson proves that she has lost none of her grace, refinement, and good looks, and she sings and dances with



unabated energy, and is generally a wonder. Her costumes, as usual, are marvels of taste and prettiness. Her fellow-students of the "U-niversity of Gottingen" are Emily Duncan and Marie Williams. Emily is nothing if not ornamental, albeit her sense of humour is not great, nor her artistic accomplishments extensive. In faith, she has a charming face and a fine contour of body that are in themselves pleasurable to gaze upon. Marie has greater vivacity and a slenderer form. They make a pair of promising students,

Whose only books are women's looks,
And Folly all they teach us.

Ella Chapman undertakes the part of Tarantula, "manager of the opera house at Keekendone," a personage who has not a very defined connection with the plot of the piece. Ella, however, contrives to get an opportunity of playing on a banjo. She does not seem to me to do it so well as she was wont to do. Or, perhaps, I expected her to do it better. Her liveliness all through the piece makes itself appreciated notwithstanding. But for youth, beauty, grace, and sweet maiden simplicity commend me to Violet Cameron. Again I must ejaculate, with Mr. Tubbs, "Pretty soul!" Very sweetly, too, does Miss Cameron sing, and many are the promising indications in her performance of increased accomplishment and painstaking study, which show that she means to become an artist one of these days. There are numerous other "pretty souls" in *Oxygen*, some of whom play speaking parts, and others who merely fill up the background (delicious background!) of the extravaganza. It may, perchance, appear to some of the more superior-minded of my readers that I am displaying an unseemly warmth of enthusiasm over mere feminine beauty. I can't help it. It is one of the privileges we old men are accorded to admire the fair daughters of Eve without thinking any evil. "Pretty souls!" I say once more.

But I must pull myself together, and remark upon the grotesque element of *Oxygen*. Lal Brough is of course the leading figure. He is the Burgomaster of Keekendone, and his deliberate gravity of intense humour manifests itself in various irresistible ways. It is not what he says and does, but how he says and does

it, that constitutes the drollery of his performance. I am surprised to find upon looking back that in noticing *Oxygen* casually on a previous occasion, I described Willie Edouin's performance of Franz as being "grotesquely dull." I opine the dull is a misprint, for I did not upon any occasion form that opinion of it. Indeed, since he played the comic corporal in *Bluebeard* Edouin has not appeared to such advantage. His contortions, facial and anatomical, when Prince Fritz turns on the laughing gas and subjects him to its influence, are the perfection of pantomimic absurdity. Mr. Philip Day's Doctor Ox adds much to the drollery of the piece. The professor of chemistry, with his little portable gas works, vainly trying to turn it on for the edification of his pupils, creates much amusement. I must not forget to mention, in conclusion, Miss Harriet Coveney's



Mr. W. M. Edouin as Solomon Probins.

humorous representation of Suzel's *gouvernante*. The friskiness superinduced in an elderly spinster by the laughing gas, causing her to dance and skip, and fling her aged arms in amorous frenzy around the neck of every male being who crosses her path, is excellently well simulated by Miss Coveney.

Contempt of Court, a sort of comic operetta, written in evident emulation of Gilbert's, was produced on last Saturday afternoon at the Folly, but I was not able to go and see it. They tell me it was, on the whole, favourably received, and will take its place on the regular programme of the Folly shortly. Of the music (composed by Mr. Solomon) I cannot speak. The libretto, however, being printed, I have read. It has greatly disappointed me.



Howsoever humorous the situations involved may be upon the stage, there is not only an absence of anything like genuine wit in the writing, but it displays a singular carelessness of workmanship. In trifles of this kind neatness of execution is everything. No, no, Arthur, it is not worthy of your reputation. Why even Charley would not dare to set down among the pantomimic effusions which he supplies to his beloved Brummagem such rugged lines as these, for example, quoted at random:—

Oh can they thus commit contempt,
My Brownlow, what says Chitty,
Does legal motherhood exempt?
I really feel quite writty.

For shame!

THE gross proceeds of the Concert on Easter Monday last, given in aid of the funds of the Cheesemongers' Benevolent Institution, amounted to £1,115 11s., which sum has been handed to John Corderoy, Esq., the Treasurer.

THE St. John's Amateur Dramatic Society on Thursday week played at the St. George's Theatre for a charity (the Hospital for Diseases of the Chest), and produced a new and rather clever burlesque, *The Brave Rascals*, by Alf. Greenland (no doubt a pun is concealed). The acting was fairly good.

which do no teach any great moral lesson, and are sometimes accused by the straightlaced of exercising a directly opposite influence upon the senses of a rising generation. But, for my own part, I am so often weary of witnessing futile efforts in the realms of ambitious dramatic art, that it is an ineffable relief to me to occasionally drop in at the Folly, and leaving loftier considerations to take care of themselves, feast mine eyes from a restful stall, upon the beauteous princes, students, pages, and

"JEAN DACIER."

"JEAN DACIER," the tragedy so recently produced at the Théâtre Français by a new dramatist, M. Charles Lomon, achieved a success which at once made its young author famous. It appeals strongly, as plays mostly do in Paris, intentionally or accidentally, to the political feelings of the hour, and already we hear of its discussion originating quarrels, one of which has resulted in a duel, whereby M. Cremieux got run through the arm—a capital advertisement, and so cheap!

The scene of our engraving is that in which a recruiting party arrive with drums and fifes to enlist soldiers for the service of the new Republic at the very gates of the old noble's manor house. None of the well-to-do yeomen round about, however, will have anything to do with fighting save under their landlord's leadership, except Jean Dacier, who, to the amazement of the villagers, steps suddenly forward and enlists himself. His master and mistress, wonderstricken by so strange an occurrence, try to dissuade him from quitting the soil on which he was born. The count and the marquis rally him contemptuously on his puny figure, his ignorance of the use of arms, and suggest that he will be scared out of his wits at the sound of a cannon, because the class of heroes belongs exclusively to high born gentlemen like themselves. The

countess, also feeling a vague consciousness of her power over the heart of her romantic servant, first intreats and then commands him to renounce his intention of abandoning his friends and benefactors. Jean Dacier, though deeply moved by the feminine grace and pathos of her appeal, nevertheless replies in language of great eloquence and spirit. He tells how he, a serf, first heard the call to Freedom sounding trumpet-tongued from the lips of France, and doubted whether its music was not such as he had dreamed after reading patriot songs of deeds of daring. It seemed to him too good to be true; yet, if the dawn of a new day of liberty has indeed risen over his country, he will hasten to meet it. Then turning to the nobles who mock at his enthusiasm, he reminds them sternly that those ancient titles and honours of which they are so proud were all won upon fields of battle. "You," he adds with prophetic energy, "have already rank and glory; it is for me, and such as me, to go and gain them."

BIRDS PROTECTED BY THE WILD FOWL PRESERVATION ACT.

THE alarming decrease in the numbers of our wild fowl, to which we owed the passing of this Act, will, we hope be more effectually checked by it, than it was by that passed in the

thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth of her present Majesty's happy reign, to which it is supplementary.

According to the new Act "Where any person shall be found offending against this Act, it shall be lawful for any person to require the person so offending to give his christian name, surname, and place of abode; and in case the person offending shall, after being so required, refuse to give his real name or place of abode, or give an untrue name, he shall be liable, on being convicted of any such offence before a justice of the peace or the sheriff, to forfeit and pay, in addition to the penalties imposed by section two, such sum of money not exceeding two pounds as to the convicting justice or sheriff shall seem meet, together with the costs of the conviction.

The following is a list of birds protected by the Act, which figure in our artist's drawing:—(1) common snipe, (2) sandpiper (or summer snipe), (3) woodcock, (4) spoonbill, (5) thick-knee (or stone curlew), (6) curlew, (7) wimbrel, (8) avocet, (9) godwit, (10) lapwing (or peewit), (11) phalarope, (12) ruff (or purr, or reeve), (13) wild goose, (14) pochard (or dunbird), (15) mallard, (16) teal (17) wigeon, (18) stonehatch (same as stonechat), (19) dotterel, (20) shoveller, (21) golden plover, (22) dunlin (or stint, or oystercatcher), (23) stint (or smallest sandpiper), (24) shorelark, (25) redshank.

FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND, May 10th, 1877.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL £3,112,500.

PAID-UP CAPITAL.

On 20,000 Shares of £50 each, £21 paid	£420,000
On 77,500 Shares of £20 each, £12 paid	930,000
On 28,125 Shares of £20 each, £8 paid (less £14 unpaid)	224,068
Paid in advance of 6th call	20
	£1,575,066

RESERVE FUND, £900,000.

NUMBER OF SHAREHOLDERS, 4,632.

DIRECTORS.

Right Hon. Lord Ernest Augustus Charles Brudenell Bruce, M.P.	
George Hanbury Field, Esq.	
John Oliver Hanson, Esq.	
John Kingston, Esq.	
Duncan Macdonald, Esq.	
Henry Paull, Esq.	
Alexander Robertson, Esq.	
John Stewart, Esq.	
Sir James Sibbald David Scott, Bart.	
Richard Blaney Wade, Esq.	
Robert Wigram, Esq.	
Hon. Eliot Thomas Yorke.	
Edward Atkinson, Esq., Honorary Director.	
William Holt.	
Robert Fergusson.	
Thomas George Robinson.	
Joint General Managers.	
Bishopsgate Street, corner of Threadneedle Street, London.	
SOLICITOR.	
Charles Norris Wilde, Esq.	
RICHARD BLANEY WADE, Esq., in the Chair,	
REPORT,	

The Directors are glad to meet the Proprietors, and to submit for their approval the Forty-fourth Annual Report of the Bank.

The Bank of England rate stood at 2 per cent. from 10th April 1876 till the 3rd inst., giving an average rate for 1876 of £2 12s. 1d., being 12s. 3d. less than that for 1875. The long continuance of 2 per cent. has only one parallel, viz., from July 1867 to November, 1868, a period of sixteen months.

The year 1876 was characterised by stagnation in almost every department of trade, and the business of Banking, consequently, has been less profitable than in previous years. Owing, however, to the constantly widening range of the Bank's operations, and the careful investment of its resources, the Directors have the satisfaction of recommending:—

That the Dividend and Bonus now to be declared be 11 per cent. for the half-year, being the usual 4 per cent. Dividend, with a Bonus of 7 per cent, making, with the distribution in January last, 21 per cent. for the year.

That £34,055. 2s. 9d. of undivided profits, being the balance of £50,641. 5s. 6d. referred to in last Report, be carried forward to the account of the current year. It will be remembered that the latter sum was reserved to meet the increasing amount of Dividend upon the new Capital, until the same was fully paid and rendered productive.

The Statement of Accounts herein contained will show that there has been a considerable increase of deposits—spread over the whole of the Branches—and it may be stated that 3,140 new current accounts have been opened, exclusive of a large number of new deposit accounts.

The following is the summary of the operations for the year, submitted in the form hitherto in use:—

Rest or Undivided Profits at 31st December, 1875, as exhibited at the Annual Meeting in May 1876, viz.	£860,985	0	0
Less Bonus declared and paid in cash in July 1876	102,375	0	0
	£758,610	0	0
Add Premium on New Shares received up to December, 1875	141,390	0	0
	£900,000	0	0
Leaving			
Nett profits of 1876, after making allowance for bad and doubtful debts and Bonus to Officers	308,538	17	3
Making	1,208,538	17	3
Add undivided profits from 1875	50,641	5	6
	£1,259,180	2	0

Total.....£1,259,180 2 0

DEDUCT		
Dividend on Company's		
Stock, paid July, 1876	£60,750	0 0
Ditto ditto, January, 1877	63,000	0 0
Bonus of 6 per cent. ditto		
ditto	91,125	0 0
Undivided Profits to next		
year.....	34,055	2 9

Out of THESE PROFITS the Directors propose to declare, in addition to the foregoing Dividends and Bonus paid to Proprietors as above stated, a further Bonus of 7 per cent. in July next, making a division of Profits in 1876 in all 21 per cent. upon the Paid-up Capital, free of Income Tax, amounting to

Leaving Reserve invested in Government Securities

Since the last Annual Meeting, branches have been opened at Whitley and Burton-on-Trent, which give promise of success. Agencies to the Bangor Branch have also been opened at Bethesda and Menai Bridge to conserve the business of the Bank in that district. The following Directors go out of office by rotation, but, being eligible for re-election, offer themselves accordingly, viz:—

It was mentioned at the last Annual Meeting that Mr Edward Atkinson, after forty years of valuable services, desired to retire from his duties as Joint General Manager, and that Mr. Robert Fergusson, who had had considerable experience at several Branches, especially as Manager at the Manchester Branch, had been selected to fill the vacancy occasioned by Mr. Atkinson's retirement. Subsequently to that arrangement, the Directors, having regard to Mr. Holt's length of service, and to the importance of having a gentleman thoroughly prepared to fill any vacancy that might occur, have appointed Mr. Robinson, an officer trained in the service of the Bank, and for many years Manager of the important Branch at Middlesbrough, to be a Joint General Manager.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND. 31st December, 1876.

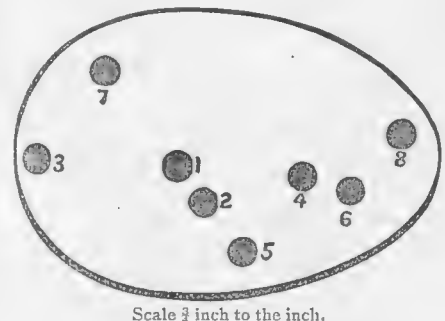
Dr.	LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
To Paid-up Capital		1,575,000	0	0
To Amount due by the Bank on Deposits		26,848,277	7	10
To Acceptances		700,348	15	3
To Reserve Fund, 1st January, 1876 ..		900,000	0	0
To Profit and Loss Balance		144,305	2	9
	ASSETS.	£30,167,937	5	10
Cr.				
By Cash in hand—at Bank of England and Branches, at Call and Short Notice		4,851,909	7	10
By Government Securities		4,553,998	17	6
By Indian Government and other Securities, Debentures, &c.		2,865,836	9	2
By Bills Discounted; Loans, &c.		17,411,162	14	1
By Freehold Premises, &c., in London and country — Total amount ..		£636,254	4	2
Less, at credit of Building Fund ..		151,224	6	11
		485,029	17	3
		£30,167,937	5	10

The above Report having been read—It was Resolved Unanimously—that the same be adopted and printed for the use of the proprietors. Resolved Unanimously—that John Oliver Hanson, Esq., George Hanbury Field, Esq., and John Stewart, Esq., be re-elected Directors of the Company. Resolved unanimously—that the best thanks of the Proprietors be presented to the Directors for their very successful management of the affairs of the Company. Resolved unanimously—that the best thanks of the Proprietors be given to William Holt, Robert Fergusson, and Thomas George Robinson, the General Managers; and to the Branch Managers and other Officers of the Company, for their efficient services. Resolved unanimously—that the best thanks of the Meeting be presented to the Chairman for his able conduct in the Chair.

Extracted from the Minutes by W. HOLT, R. FERGUSSON, } Joint Managers. T. G. ROBINSON,

HOLLANDS' ROOK RIFLES. FREEDOM FROM ESCAPE AND FOULING. 100 Shots may be Fired without Cleaning Barrel. Price £5 each; Ditto, Steel Barrels and Engraved, £6 to £10.

Mr. A. P., 21st Fusiliers, writes:—"I fired eight successive shots at 100 yards, mean deviation 0.7 of an inch; all would have struck a hen's egg." Rifles exchanged if not approved of.



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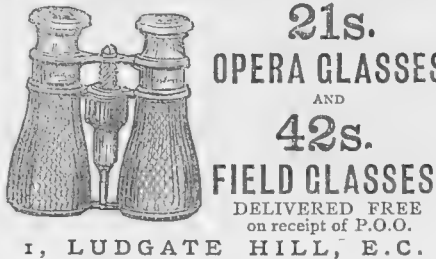
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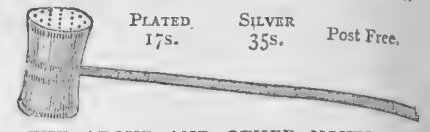
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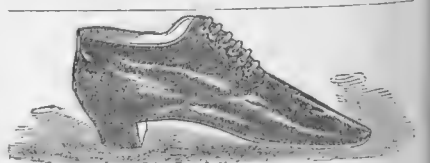
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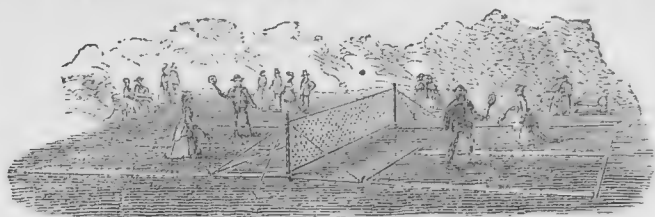
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 1877.
 WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, and FRIDAY,
 June 6th, 7th, and 8th.
 FIRST DAY.

The MAKERFIELD HANDICAP PLATE of 100 sovs., for three year olds and upwards; entrance 3 sovs.; 5 fur.

The COPELAND WELTER HANDICAP PLATE of 100 sovs., for three year olds and upwards; entrance 3 sovs.; one mile.

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SECOND DAY.
 The WILTON HANDICAP PLATE of 100 sovs., for three year olds and upwards; entrance 3 sovs.; three-quarters of a mile.
 The St. HELENS' WELTER HANDICAP PLATE of 100 sovs., for three year olds and upwards; entrance 3 sovs.; 5 fur.

THIRD DAY.
 The WARRINGTON HANDICAP PLATE of 100 sovs., for three year olds and upwards; entrance 3 sovs.; 5 fur.

The GRAND STAND WELTER HANDICAP PLATE of 100 sovs., for three year olds and upwards; entrance 3 sovs.; about one mile.

The above close on Tuesday, May 15.
 Nominations received by Messrs. Weatherby, London; Messrs. Pratt & Barbook, London; or Messrs. Johnson & Dawson, Clerks of the Course, York and Malton.

STUD FOX TERRIER, OLD JESTER, by Old Jock out of Cottingham Nettle (Mr. Gibson's best brood bitch).—Jester is the only guaranteed son of Old Jock now at the stud; he has bolted foxes, and has killed a freshly-caught badger. He contains none of the abominable strains so noticeable among many of the mongrel show dogs, but is of pure, old kennel blood, and is sire of four better prize winners (at present in existence) than any fox terrier in England—they are X.L., Jester II., Satire, and Frantic. Jester is now eight years old, but is fresh and well. He will serve a few bitches at £3 3s.—W. ALLISON, Kilvington, Thirsk, Yorkshire (Thirsk on the main line between London and Edinburgh).

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 Horses on view Saturday.

NOTICE—THURSDAY'S SALES.
MESSRS. TATTERSALL beg to give notice that their THURSDAY'S SALES have now COMMENCED, and will be CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE SEASON. Horses on View. Catalogues ready every Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock.—ALBERT GATE, HYDE-PARK.

NOTICE.
MESSRS. TATTERSALL'S STALLS are ALL ENGAGED on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS till the 25th of JUNE.
 Albert Gate, Hyde Park, April 21, 1877.

THE CHESHIRE HORSES.
MESSRS. TATTERSALL have received instructions from H. Reginald Corbet Esq., to SELL, at the KENNELS, DALEFORD NORTHWICH, on the SATURDAY after Chester Races, MAY 12th, about FIFTY HORSES (which have been regularly hunted with the Cheshire Hounds), Harness Horses, Hacks, &c., &c.

THE V.W.H.
To be SOLD BY AUCTION by Messrs. TATTERSALL, near ALBERT GATE, HYDE PARK, on MONDAY, MAY 14th, the property of the Earl of Shannon.
 About FORTY HORSES that have been regularly hunted with the V.W.H.
 Also some PHAETON HORSES.
 Further particulars in future papers.

SEVENTH ANNUAL QUORN SALE.
MESSRS. TATTERSALL have received instructions from J. Coupland Esq. (Master of the Quorn Hounds), to SELL by AUCTION, at Albert Gate, Hyde Park, on MONDAY, the 21st of May, about FIFTY HORSES that have been ridden by the master and servants during the season. Also several superior Hacks and Harness Horses, with good action.

To be SOLD by AUCTION by Messrs. TATTERSALL, near ALBERT GATE, HYDE PARK, on MONDAY, MAY 28th, the property of James Hornsby Esq., of Grantham. ELEVEN weight-carrying COBS and HUNTERS. Full particulars in future advertisements.

To be SOLD by AUCTION by Messrs. TATTERSALL, near ALBERT GATE, HYDE PARK, on MONDAY, May 28th, without reserve.
GLOUCESTER, brown colt by Parmesan out of Blue Bell by Heron, 4 yrs.
KILLIECRANKIE, bay horse by Blair Athol out of Queen's Head, 5 yrs.

THURSDAY'S SALES.
THE BADSWORTH HORSES.
To be SOLD by AUCTION by Messrs. TATTERSALL, near ALBERT GATE, HYDE PARK, on THURSDAY, MAY 31st, THIRTY-FIVE HORSES, that have been regularly hunted by the Master and servants during the present season, the property of C. B. Wright, Esq.

THE ANNUAL SALE of the MIDDLE PARK YEARLINGS by Messrs. TATTERSALL will take place at Middle Park, Eltham, on SATURDAY, June 2, being the Saturday in the Derby week. The Yearlings, numbering about fifty-five, are respectively by Parmesan, Blair Athol, Koscian, Victorious, Vespasian, King of the Forest, Blinkhoolie, Saunterer, Toxophilite, D'Estournel, Brown Bread, &c.
 Catalogues can be had on application to Messrs. Tattersall, Knightsbridge, or the Stud Groom, Middle Park, Eltham, Kent.

NOTICE OF SALE.
THE DEWHURST STUD of upwards of 60 MARES and their FOALS, SCOTTISH CHIEF and 3 other STALLIONS, will be SOLD by AUCTION by Messrs. TATTERSALL, on SATURDAY, the 6th of June, and the 30 YEARLINGS at NEWMARKET in July.
 The FREEHOLD ESTATE to be SOLD by PRIVATE TREATY.

ALDRIDGE'S, London: Established 1753.—SALES BY AUCTION of HORSES and CARRIAGES on every Wednesday and Saturday, at Eleven o'clock precisely. Stalls should be engaged a week before either sale day. Horses received on Mondays and Thursdays from Nine to Twelve o'clock. Accounts paid on those days only, between ten and four. Cheques forwarded to the country on written request. The Sale on Wednesday next will include 150 Brougham and Phaeton Horses, from jobmasters, with Hacks and Harness Horses, Cobs, and Ponies, from noblemen and gentlemen, New and Second-hand Carriages, Harness, &c. Sales and valuations in town or country.
 W. and S. FREEMAN, Proprietors.

FIRST CONSIGNMENT.
 80 HORSES FROM SOUTH AMERICA.

MESSRS. W. & S. FREEMAN, proprietors of Aldridge's, St. Martin's Lane, will SELL by PUBLIC AUCTION, on THURSDAY, MAY 17th, 1877, at the WELSH HARP FARM, HENDON, by Special Arrangement, at TWELVE O'CLOCK precisely, EIGHTY HORSES imported direct from Buenos Ayres.

They have been selected by Messrs. Inglis and Miller of that place, for trial in the English Market, and comprise useful strong cobs, 14h. 2; Hacks, up to weight, showing breeding, 15 hands and upwards, and classed harness horses, up to 16 hands.

They are not showy in appearance, but are celebrated for their endurance and hardiness, as 60 or 70 miles a day, under saddle, is a common distance for them to perform without food, they are also very docile and easily trained for any kind of work.

They may be seen at the "Welsh Harp," at 12 o'clock, and will be on view in the stables on Tuesday, May 15th, and until the Sale. Particulars of W. and S. Freeman, Aldridge's, St. Martin's Lane, London.

Trains from King's Cross (Metropolitan) to Welsh Harp, 8.33, 9.9, 9.30, 11.11. Fares, return ticket, 1s. 6d. and 1s.

Horses boxed at Hendon to all parts of the Country.

BARBICAN REPOSITORY.
MR. RYMILL will SELL by PUBLIC AUCTION, every TUESDAY and FRIDAY, commencing at Eleven o'clock, ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY HORSES, suitable for professional gentlemen, tradesmen, and cab proprietors, and others; active young cart and van horses for town and agricultural work; also a large assortment of carriages, carts, harness, &c.
 FOR CONTINUANCE OF AUCTION ADVERTISEMENTS SEE PAGE 183.

Printed for the Proprietor by JAMES and GEORGE JUDG, at the Office of Messrs. JUDG & Co., 4, 5, and 6, St. Andrew's-hill, Doctors' Commons, in the Parish of St. Ann, in the City of London, and published by GEORGE MADDOCK, Jun., at 148, Strand, in the Parish of St. Clement Danes, London.—SATURDAY, May 12, 1877.

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from the handicap horse Compiegne there springs a Mortemer, when the plater Plutus is credited with a Flageolet, and when the despised Mars blossoms into the sire of a Jongleur. Instances like these might be multiplied almost indefinitely, and it grieves one to think how many neglected ones are pining in the cold shade of opposition, who might not only develop into sires of "our kings to be," but would lessen the labours and reduce the strain upon the power of our fashionable fathers of the stud. A continuation of our comparison brings us to the consideration of the young stock as delivered into the trainer's hands; and as we have before alluded to these, our consideration of them shall be brief. They must indeed have read the signs of the times in vain, who fail to perceive that success has attended the efforts of home-bred yearlings in a far greater degree than in the case of those purchased at public auction. This latter process is almost unknown in France as a means of supplying the Turf with fresh material, and its prevalence in this island cannot be regarded as beneficial to our racing interests, although there can be little doubt of its continuing to be the custom among us. Not long since we made it our business to inquire how far the promise shown by certain high priced yearlings had been borne out by subsequent performances, and the result was anything but encouraging to sensational bidders and their imitators. The question is an unanswerable one—how can the fattening up for sale, and making-up practice, at present in vogue with breeders, act otherwise than prejudicially upon the constitutions of growing animals, which thus undergo an unnatural process of "cramming" at a time of existence when they are just about to exchange a life of idleness and play for one of hard work? Surely such plain facts as these we have brought before our readers are worthy of serious and anxious consideration; and not all the vain yearnings after "reciprocity" will work a change for the better in this respect, unless we take to heart some of the lessons we need not disdain to have taught us by our former pupils. We have shown what great differences exist between our own systems of breeding and that practised by the French; and surely the latter must be in some respects worthy of imitation, when its results are such as to make us tremble for our racing supremacy, and raise querulous complaints that we can no longer hold our own.

KEEPING SHAKSPEARE'S BIRTHDAY AT STRATFORD-ON-AVON.

(Concluded from page 151.)

OUR Printer, who cut off the end of our tale in the middle, must absolve us from all blame in separating our pencil sketches from their descriptive account the length of an entire week. While still on our way by rail the speed at which we progressed suggested to us how strangely different a thing our ride of a few hours over a hundred and odd miles to reach Stratford was from the ride Shakspeare so often had to the same place, when mounting his horse, per chance at the door of the Falcon on the Bank Side, near the Globe Theatre, he bade his loving and admiring fellows adieu, drank to them in a merry stirrup cup, and spurred, booted, well cloaked, and particularly well armed, started for his terribly long, difficult, and dangerous journey home. For the roads of his day, all but unused since the Romans made them, were fearful to contemplate. There were few of them over which carriages could pass, and even then bullocks, not horses, were the only fitting beasts to labour at the prodigious task of pulling them along, so that rivers were the great means of traffic, except when they were frozen. In winter a country town would be so isolated from another that its inhabitants were like poor outcast mariners, far away at sea, living upon salted meat, and yearning for the sight of a stranger's face, that he might tell them news of their native land, and of the great unknown world beyond their reach and hearing.

Shakspeare's route from London to Stratford, was by way of Uxbridge, by Waller's birth-place, Beaconsfield, and so on to East Wickham, Stockingchurch, Thetisford, and Whatley until he reached Oxford, and for a time found refreshment and rest.

Tradition tells us, through Aubrey, that despite the world of trouble and danger involved therein, Shakspeare "was wont to go into Warwickshire once a year, and did commonly lye at the Crowne Taverne in Oxford, where he was exceedingly respected." We remember this as we hear the cry of "Banbury cakes" and our train comes to a stand within sight of all that remains of Oxford Castle the great seat of the old De Veres. "The Crowne" in Aubrey's time stood "an old decayed house, but probably was once a principal inn in Oxford." Imagine how the weary, way-worn, travel stained poet was received there when Mrs. Davenant, the landlady, "a very beautiful woman, and of very good wit," of whom a slanderous old story will have it, he was enamoured, as was she of him, came out, as he rode into the inn yard, beaming with wild delight, while all the house, and, perhaps, the town also, was astir to give him welcome.

Resuming the journey a day or so after, he would probably go on by way of Woodstock, Enstone, and Shepstone, over the Avon, by Clopton's Bridge, and so right gladly into Stratford, where his father, wife, and children, relatives from Shottery, friends and neighbours, most of whom bore Welsh names, by-the-bye, would all congregate to receive him, and there would be much hand-shaking and jollity, much asking of questions, many expressions of delight, presents from London perchance, this for the wife, that for the father, something for the children, and so on, and so on—for if one gave imagination reins in this direction where might one not end. And pleasant was it when the great poet, stiff and weary with the ride, sat quietly down by his own humble fireside in the midst of his family, and there was much to talk about and listen to until the night wore quickly on, and the house was once more quiet.

But we must to our business. Arriving at Stratford, we look in vain for the crowds of pilgrims who should be there to celebrate the coming birthday, and witness the laying of the Memorial Theatre's corner-stone. There is a triumphal arch erected between an old wall and some tumble-down palings, which guard the ground purchased from the Great Western Railway Company, and was given as a site for the building by Mr. Charles E. Flower, who is the donor of a thousand pounds to the fund. But with this exception, the pleasant little town wears its usual quiet, half-deserted aspect. We turn our back upon the lonely triumphal arch, standing on ground once probably in the poet's garden, for it extended to the river, and returning past the Guild chapel, and the religiously preserved foundations of New Place, within which Shakspeare died, enter our inn, the good old Falcon, kept by Mrs. A. Page, whom we, of course, are sorely tempted to call mistress, and Sweet Ann, where we take our seat until dinner is ready in the smoke-room, opposite a copy of the poet's bust in the church, coloured after the original, with a long clay pipe, in lieu of a pen, placed in the hand. The wainscoting is, we know, that which was removed from Shakspeare's own

home, and we are silly enough to feel a degree of pleasure in leaning against it, as the poet doubtless often did. We visit the church, where we find Professor Leo and Mr. Tom Taylor, with some ladies. The latter gentleman in slow, measured, and formal accents, rolls forth weighty syllables, reading aloud the inscriptions on the different tombstones—now we are glad to see, carefully protected with a carpet, turned back for the occasion. He is conveying to the mind of the placid-looking vicar, who wears a long white beard, and in his simple black robes looks picturesque and quite in keeping with the place—a considerable amount of guide book information with which he—the vicar—is good enough not to seem bored. Then we all examine curiously that long, narrow, world-famous old volume, containing inscriptions recording almost all we know of Shakspeare and his family, and your humble servant, stepping back into a corner, unobserved, makes a slight sketch of the group, for which he regrets he could find no space on the page allotted to his pencil's report of the commemoration doings.

A visit to Shottery makes the Sunday afternoon delightful. You know what they have to show there, and how deeply interesting it is, and what an unobtrusive, quiet, nice old body she is who plays the part of show-woman there, and what a pleasant walk across the fields is that which leads to the picturesque old-world village, where a landscape painter might spend a month or two sketching, and come away with much heartfelt reluctance. And, by the bye, why may not the handsome old elaborately carved Elizabethan bedstead shown there, be that identical second-best bed which Shakspeare bequeathed to his widow just before she gave up New Place to her daughter and step-son? There is much that favours the idea. Returning from Shottery, nor rain nor darkness could prevent our visiting another of the quaint little villages near Stratford, Loxley, the reputed birth-place of Robin Hood, with its ancient Saxon church tower and its village on the hill-top, where "The Fox" gave us shelter, and its pleasant landlord and good-looking landlady made us as welcome and as comfortable as if we were neither strangers nor mere chance led customers, but old personal friends. Here, too, our sketch book came out.

On Monday, declining the opportunity of becoming part of the procession on the ground that we could not then make a sketch of it—for which sketch there is, however, in the present number no room—we devoted ourselves to the day's chief events.

The procession, introduced by the local police and military bands, consisted first of invited guests, two-and-two. We noted amongst these Mr. William Sawyer, Mr. Sidney French, Mr. Tom Burgess (a literary and journalistic local celebrity, author of a pleasant little book about Warwickshire, recently published), and those gentlemen who were the speech-makers at the luncheon. Then came members of the Masonic body in their aprons, cuffs, and collars of state, belonging to the various lodges of the province, and headed by the juniors, with tylers of various degrees between, and stewards and masters of lodges bearing the corn, wine, oil, and salt to be used in solemn form at the laying of the stone, the pursuivants, assistants and "past," the directors of ceremonies, superintendents of works, deacons, secretaries and treasurers, P.G. officers, master bearers of the column, level, and doric and ionic lights, the sacred law, compasses and square, the mallet (made from the wood of a beam which came from New Place), &c., all very impressive, if not particularly picturesque.

The ceremony of laying the corner-stone commenced at a few minutes past two, and was opened by the Mayor in a speech of welcome to those who were present. To him succeeded the P.G. Chaplain, the Rev. F. M. Beaumont, of Coventry, who made a decided hit when slyly satirising the theory-mongers, who have made Shakspeare a lawyer, doctor, butcher, and heaven knows what else, on the strength of certain allusions in his plays; he claimed him as a member of the Masonic body on the ground that, as the first duty of a Freemason was to keep the secrets of his craft, Shakspeare had been scrupulous in carrying out that duty, for in no one of his great works could it be said in any way he had ever betrayed the slightest knowledge of Freemasonry. After a psalm had been read, the R.W. the P.G. Master received the plans from the P.G. Superintendent of Works, and, after examining and approving, returned them. The P.G. Secretary (Brother George Beech) then read an inscription contained in a phial, into which the P.G. Treasurer (Brother J. T. Collins) next placed certain coins, the phial was then deposited in the cavity of the stone, the P.G. Master seeing the same properly secured with cement. Solemn music was played by the band whilst the upper stone was lowered by three drops, the third leaving the stone suspended a few inches from its bed. The trowel was then presented to the P.G.M. by the architect with suitable remarks, and the P.G. Master adjusted the cement on the lower stone. The stone was afterwards lowered to its bed, the band playing "God Bless the Prince of Wales." The Provincial Grand Master proceeded to address the spectators according to the usual form; after which the usual business was gone through with plumb, rule, square, &c., and then the mallet was presented by the D.P.G.M. to the P.G. Master, who gave three knocks upon the stone therewith and declared the stone to be properly laid in accordance with the ancient rules of architecture, of which he probably knew a great deal. The Provincial Grand Master then strewed grains of wheat upon the stone, and afterwards poured wine and oil and salt upon it; after which the Chaplain having offered up a brief prayer: Lord Leigh, in that voice of stentorian power so well known in the hunting field, said: "Men, women, and children, having now gone through this ceremony with all our ancient rites and honours, I am inclined to ask why I was chosen for this task, which ought to have been given to some celebrated man of letters," but, he continued, being asked to undertake it, he could not, as Lord Lieutenant of the county and Provincial Grand Master, refuse. He was most delighted to meet the literary and artistic brethren of the Craft, on one of whom, Brother Creswick, he was about to call to address them.

Mr. Creswick apologised for reading the speech he had prepared, and then with very little elocutionary effort or effect read a somewhat stilted and high flown address, in which common-place sentiments jostled high soaring notions in vague confusion, until he condescended to be practical, when his remarks straightforward grew simple, understandable and good. He claimed for the enterprise thus inaugurated that it should take high rank as a preparatory school of dramatic art, which should be for London what of old the entire range of the provincial theatres used to be, but are no longer, and concluded by urging:

"That in the absence of schools we shall look in vain for scholarly art, is recognised in every branch of it but the dramatic. Music is fostered, and the fine arts are deemed worthy of royal encouragement. Painting has its schools in the width and breadth of the land—Government has properly helped them—and painting has also its noble Academy; but the drama in the land of Shakspeare is alone left to struggle on and live or die as it may. This, I hope you will say, is unworthy of intellectual England, and I accept our work of to-day as a happy augury that ere long the stigma will be swept away, and that the Memorial Theatre will form the incentive and nucleus of schools of dramatic art, the influence of which will be beneficially felt throughout all time. This is the becoming expression of our love and reverence for Shakspeare. We honour the Master through his art. Our homage to his genius is best shown by regard for the medium through which it expressed itself. In him the poet and the actor were one. With infinite capacity for moving the hearts and electrifying the souls of men, he deliberately chose the drama as the means best suited to that end. His foot once firmly planted on the stage he wrote for the stage, and for the stage alone. He saw the arena for his powers. He had faith in the potentialities of the drama—a faith which has conferred on his brow the aureole of immortality. On all occasions, and upon this most especially, we must regard Shakspeare and his art as one. To him and to that art we dedicate this temple—sacred to his name and fame, sacred to the wonders he created, sacred to the pursuit he loved and followed. May it endure to remotest times, a memorial of his greatness and our love, an incentive to the highest histrionic excellence, and a medium for maintaining in its purity the proudest national drama of the world—the applause, delight, and wonder of—mankind!"

At the conclusion of the Masonic ceremony, an adjournment was made to a spacious marquee erected in the grounds of New Place, where an excellent cold collation had been provided, to which a large company sat down. Amongst those present were Mr. J. J. Nason (who presided), the Mayor of Stratford, the Right Hon. Lord Leigh, Lord Yarmouth, M.P., Lord Ernest Seymour, Sir Eardley Wilmot, M.P., the Hon. and Rev. J. W. Leigh, Mr. Theodore Martin and Mrs. Martin (Miss Ellen Faucit), Mrs. Alfred Mellon, the Hon. Mrs. Hewitt, Mr. Paget, Mr. C. E. Flower, Professor Leo, Mr. Creswick, Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Gregg, Mr. Hobbes, Mr. H. Graves, Mr. Moon, the Rev. T. N. Beaumont, the Rev. M. Rigby, the Mayor of Leamington (Alderman Bright), Alderman Bird, Mrs. Bird, Mr. and Miss Neale, Mr. and Mrs. Coleman, Mr. Brendon, Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson, Mr. L. Leigh, Mr. Earnshaw, Mr. Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Clements, Mr. Alfred Ash, Miss Lapworth, Mr. and Mrs. B. Cox, the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Collis, Miss Curry, Mr. and Mrs. Hodgson, Lieut.-Colonel Machen, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Flower, Mr. Radclyffe, Mr. Worrall, the Hon. Miss Leigh, Mr. Joseph Glover (Leamington), E. Pritchard, C.E.,

Mr. Burman, Captain Salt, Dr. Haynes, Dr. Wilson, Mr. J. G. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Lowndes, Captain C. W. Cooke (Warwick), Colonel Greenway, Mr. J. W. Vivian, Mr. Smith (Warwick), Dr. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. James Cox, jun., Miss Clayton, the Misses Burfield, Mr. and Mrs. Hobbes, Mr. C. J. Baker, Mr. W. Nichs, the Misses Hobbes; Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Gamble, Miss Pratt, Mr. George Eyres, Mr. and Mrs. S. Inns, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Betjeman, Mr. Sydney French, Mr. William Sawyer, Mr. James Temple, Mr. A. H. Wall, Mr. Burgess, Mr. and Mrs. R. Gibbs, Mr. Burke, Mr. Winter, the Rev. C. S. Dupuis, Mr. T. T. Paget (Leicester), the Rev. J. H. and Mrs. Skyes, Mr. Percy Hodgson, Alderman Stephenson, Mrs. and Miss Stephenson, Mr. Kenip, Mr. C. E. Loggin, Mr. H. W. Newton, Mr. Jagger, Captain Warrilow, Lieutenant Lane, Mr. T. Slatter, Misses Slatter, Mr. Slatter, Mr. Fisher (Hilton), Mr. J. Todd Dickie, &c.

Letters of apology were read from the Archbishop of Dublin, the Marquis of Hertford, and Earl of Bradford, and many others, and then the Mayor proposed the usual local and patriotic toasts, stating that it had been intended that Prince Leopold should preside at the laying of the foundation-stone, but His Royal Highness was unable to be present; he, however, "held documents in his hands" which, he believed, would "bring down" one of the Royal Family before long—a formidable threat, which we hope it is not high treason to report.

We have no space for the various speeches and toasts, excellent as some of the former were. Mr. Tom Taylor proposed "Success to the Shakspeare Memorial" in a somewhat prosy speech, in the course of which he dreamed a dream, in which he dwelt upon all sorts of glowing anticipations of the elevation and refinement of the drama in the future, and expressed a hope that amateur theatricals might be raised from *Box and Cox* and *Still Waters Run Deep* (his own play) to the lightest comedies of Shakspeare.

Mr. C. E. Flower, with modest earnestness and much good sense, responded to the toast.

Mr. Theodore Martin proposed "The Drama" in a speech of great force and real eloquence, which the inexorable demand upon our space compels us reluctantly to omit.

He said in concluding, that if actors and actresses would do their duty to the public, he was sure the public would do theirs. If actors and actresses would respect themselves and their vocation as did the professors of other liberal arts, there was still a great future before the British drama. Then also we might have—what we should have—a stage which could not only beguile us of our weary hours by playfulness and wholesome laughter, but should educate the heart and mind with all those nobler thoughts and deeper feelings which it is the peculiar province of the poetic drama to inspire. The luncheon concluded with the healths of the Lord Lieutenant, the visitors, the high steward, the mayor and the corporation followed. In proposing the visitors, the proposer was alarmingly jocular, and ladies being present, his reviving the antique joke about Jack and Joan and the bolster was a bold thing, to illustrate a supposed quarrel between the little village called London and the great town of Stratford-on-Avon was curious.

Turn we now to our sketches. In the course of our strolling through Stratford we came upon one who, looking on us "with lack-lustre eye," said, if gravity be a proof of wisdom, very wisely, "I'm the Goose of Avon." Our satisfaction on the receipt of this important and quite unexpected piece of information having been expressed, our informant added, "They had me in the *Athenaeum* not long ago," and presently, being encouraged, the Goose repeated some lines which he had composed expressly in honour of he who was called the Swan. At his particular request we took down these lines, and here they are—

Great painter of the human mind.
His equal we shall never find.
Three hundred years have past and gone,
Since he life's stage first entered on.
Immortal minds he went to join,
For he was equally divine.
His body quickly turned to dust;
Yet in his works he lives—He Must!
With the great poets of the past
As long as life itself shall last.

We did more than copy the verses, we copied the versifier, for we are not one of those *atheists* whom Goethe denounced as honouring the creation but ignoring the Creator. And we had our reward, for the aquatic bird favoured us with some by no means bad imitations of different musical instruments, and the further information that, like Swan of Avon, as he said, he could always display his abilities most effectively when he had "some drink" in him. Was this so at the luncheon, we wonder? Did Mr. Tom Taylor, after his wine, realise his dream of the drama's future more vividly than he could have done, say in the church? Was that famous Warwickshire sportsman, The Right Honourable Lord Leigh, of Stoneley Abbey, more eloquent, as from under the umbrella which that sturdy being in the cocked hat so solemnly unfurled, his loud, manly voice cheered on the good cause over his wine, than it was when he spoke from behind the corner-stone? Was this the cause why J. J. Mason, Esq., Mayor of Stratford, was weak of speech before luncheon, and so vigorous in denouncing some Goths who would smoke their cigars after the luncheon without permission of the ladies? could this have had anything to do with that worthy Stratfordian, who having to propose the health of the visitors, so badly wanted to propose the health of the ladies, and, thinking of them, drifted into that story about Jack and Joan and the bolster, which made us all anxious for the ladies' absence, in our ignorance of the extent to which it might be carried? Had this anything to do with the smiling sweetness with which the ladies, God bless 'em! having their umbrellas up, endured the inconvenience of eating and drinking with one hand only when that heavy shower showed us that even the best of tented roofs are not always waterproof? Of a verity we know not.

For the evening of the birthday a variety of amusements had been organized, but we elected to be present at the rustic sports, where running in sacks, hurdle-jumping, chasing a greasy pig, pole-climbing and a large variety of other rude mirth provoking sports carried us back into the olden times to which they belonged. We fear our friend the now famous Goose of Avon had some reason to complain of the attention he received at the hands of his admirers, flowers, not flour, should have been cast upon him as the Birthday bard of Avon's Glorious Swan.

THE public will be admitted by voucher at Hurlingham to-day (Saturday) to witness the polo match.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT visited the Prince of Wales's Theatre on Monday evening.

LONDON BICYCLE CLUB.—The Hon. Ion Keith-Falconer, of Trinity College, Cambridge, son of the Earl of Kintore, and last year's amateur champion, has accepted the position of President of the above-mentioned club.

DR. J. E. CARPENTER, the well-known author of "What are the wild waves saying?" and hundreds of popular songs, and editor of the popular series of "Penny Readings in Prose and Verse," has in the press a new volume of his poems, which will be published shortly, under the title of "Later Lyrics."

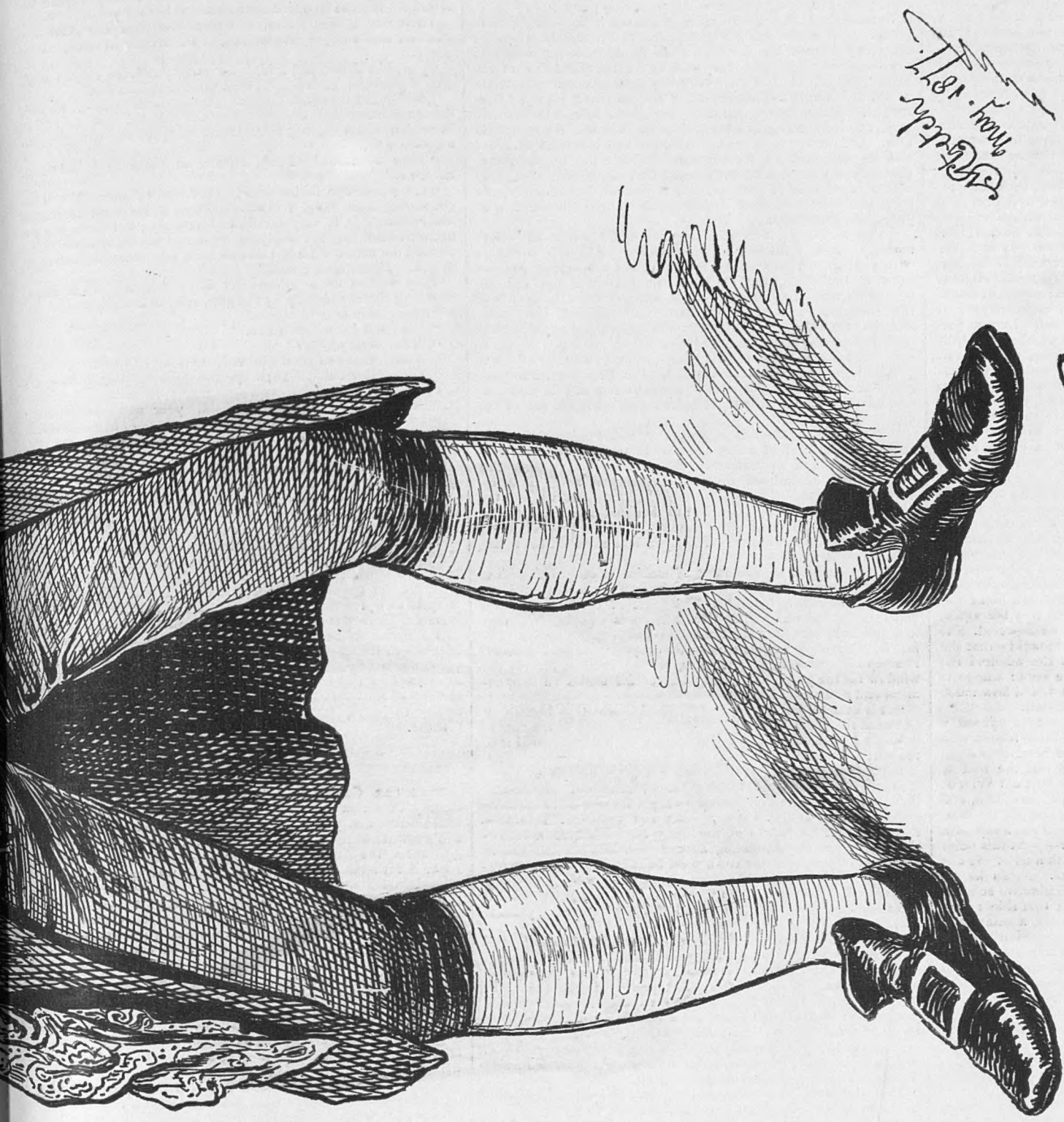
A COPY of *Beaumont and Fletcher*, which formerly belonged to Charles Lamb, has been bought for the British Museum. It has numerous notes by Lamb, and markings by himself and sister of passages to be extracted for his *Specimens of Early English Dramatic Poets*. Many notes by Coleridge are also in it; one runs: "N.B.—I shall not be long here, Charles! I gone, you will not mind my having spoiled a book in order to leave a relic. S.T.C., Oct., 1811."

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Walter Bentley

HEATHERTHORP.

A SPORTING STORY.

BY BYRON WEBBER.

CHAPTER XIV.

MISS VANDERVELDE AND MR. WOODRIDGE, SINGLY AND TOGETHER, ENDEAVOUR BY DIVERS ARTFUL DODGES TO BRING ABOUT THE COMPLETE DISCOMFITURE OF TIMOTHY WILSON, ESQUIRE, NOW "MAKING A CAST" FOR HIS MISSING DAUGHTER. LOVE LAUGHS AT LOCKSMITHS, AND HYMEN IGNORES CANONICAL HOURS.

Both Sylvia and the Doctor had, without comparing notes, resolved that the week of the race-meeting should see the end of the siege. If Kate's father did not then surrender at discretion, his citadel should be stormed, and his treasure carried off; or, in other words, if he persistently refused his consent to Kate's marriage with the Doctor, Sylvia was resolved that the Doctor, an' he was willing, should dispense with the parental approval. The Doctor had come to the same determination—from no process of reasoning, as was the case with Sylvia,—and it was that which occupied his mind on the afternoon of the day he had ridden the match with Woodridge, when he was overtaken by Kate and Sylvia on their return from the course.

Doctor Sutton entertained a very proper regard for himself. It was possible Mr. Wilson might long have the bad taste to consider him an inappropriate son-in-law; but he was SURE that Kate—bless her!—would not for a moment hesitate to set her papa at open defiance, even if her mutiny took such a shocking shape as a runaway marriage! He longed to inform Miss Vandervelde that an old college chum, the incumbent of Holy Trinity, Stokesbro',—a market town twenty miles distant from Heatherthorp, on the main line—had undertaken "to turn him off" on the very shortest notice, and, in furtherance of his fate, promised to transmit him by return of post, whenever he required it, a very special licence, that is to say, one with convenient blanks left for dates and names, and the whole duly authenticated by the addition of his (the incumbent's) sign-manual. Doctor Sutton had written to the Rev. George Wyke, incumbent of Holy Trinity, on the morning of the party at the Place, and when he bade Mat wait until he ran home for some medicine, he had nothing but the above essential legal instrument in view. It was not there. Either his own letter had miscarried, or Wyke was from home. This was a mortifying misadventure to begin with, but haply not irremediable. Anyhow, he was not the sort of fellow to relinquish his enterprise because of a rebuff on its threshold. He rejoined Crisp, and took to the road right manfully, as we have seen.

As to Sylvia and her part in the rapidly ripening crisis, it is scarcely sufficient to repeat the trite observation about women being an' enigma; albeit only on the score of the enigmatical nature of the lovely woman who stoops to the folly of rehabilitating an old love could she be explained. Miss Vandervelde, deep in her heart, had forgiven Woodridge; she knew that he knew it; the knowledge afforded her serene pleasure. She had loved him once, remember, and latterly he had shown himself so much like her ideal, the old feeling had come to rosy life again. The mainspring of her regard for Reginald was unsuspected. She thought—poor girl!—if she gave the matter a thought—that she was merely rendering him frigid justice when she admired the mare he rode in the match, and the colours he wore: when she pointed out to Kate how much he had improved, and how much pleasanter he was for the snubbing he had received.

As for Woodridge, the point he reached was that Syl was a deuced jolly girl, after all, and as he was one of those fellows who see neither rhyme nor reason in breaking your heart over a girl that won't have you, you know, well—he'd let Syl see that he bore no malice: not a bit of it! Then there was that old Wilson. He certainly owed him one for making such an ass of him, and—strong expression—he'd help the Doctor—no, not exactly that, he meant he would help Syl to help the Doctor to run away with Kate! He would, by Jove! Then, who knew?—At this point in his meditations Burroughs presented him with a note. It was in Miss Vandervelde's once-familiar characters. Again he retired without the balcony. The perusal of a diminutive scrap of feminine calligraphy, aided by the subdued light that shines from a wintrily-curtained window, may be pronounced a sufficiently difficult task; but Reginald Woodridge accomplished it in brief space. He read with more than his eyes! The missive was an audible remark of an emphatic nature, and—he was alone!—he thereupon paid passionate tribute to the sentiment of the hour and the occasion by placing his lips where Sylvia had inscribed her dainty signature!

"Stokesbro', is it, Syl? Very well, my girl. I will be there." Twenty minutes after, behold him, oblivious of the company's bye-laws, sedulously impregnating the cushions of a first-class carriage with another full-flavoured one. His destination is Stokesbro'.

In these tryings back let us not lose sight of our darling, bonny Kate! She is the Desdemona of these chronicles, recollect, if the Emilia of it has been undertaken by a lady so accustomed to "lead." Behind the scenes of the charades, she, in pretty fear and trembling, hearkened to, but only half comprehended Miss Vandervelde's rapid remarks. As the flight she had whisperingly consented to just before the lifted curtain revealed the significant tableau we have taken note of,—as this same terrible elopement was coolly arranged by stronger-minded Sylvia, she gasped out—

"My dear, I shall never go through it. I never, never shall! And you forbid me a little 'good night' to papa. Oh, dear! if he should never forgive me!" Here Kate called into requisition the aid of a delicate French cambric handkerchief.

"I expected this, Kate; but—courage! I won't be harsh, not I.—Your papa? Forgiveness? He is as sure to forgive you as I can't think of a comparison strong enough—well, as your Arthur—never—never would if you were to leave him in the lurch at the last moment."

"Oh, Sylvia!"

"If you saw your delightfully obstinate—pigheaded is the correct word, I believe—papa to night, it would ruin everything. Fancy: you on your knees, ready on the very slightest encouragement to become 'like Niobe, all tears.' You try to bid him good night,—your voice trembling with highly-becoming, but exceedingly inopportune agony, runs away with you. It says what it chooses; you—"

"Sylvia—"

"Stop a bit. I repeat you try to bid good night; somehow or other you don't say that, but good-bye, or adieu, or farewell. Your papa, who has hitherto had no cause to accuse you of using poetry when prose would serve, starts to his feet (as well as he can, poor old gentleman, considering the gout), observes your confusion, hastily inquires its cause,—you confess! and—what next, think you, Kate?"

"You exaggerate, I am positive."

"Why, my rapid and energetic, if not forcible, expulsion from Wimpledale Place. Your immediate incarceration in a strong room, on a lowering diet of bread and water,—or perhaps your banishment, and Doctor Arthur Basinghall Sutton's heartrend-

ing despair." This last shot told. Kate's face brightened, as she said in a voice, rich with feeling—

"Sylvia, I have promised him, and I will keep my word. My father, I think, will not cast me off,"—and her pretty hazel eyes for a moment looked their saddest, and wistfully accorded with the tremulousness of her sweet mouth: "no, Syl, I think he will not cast me off. But I am Arthur's!"

"To be sure you are, Kate; and though I don't mean to deny this is a most serious undertaking for a young lady like yourself, I would be the last to espouse your cause if I saw nothing in the flight but its romance. Depend upon it, Kate, you have little to fear in the future. Arthur Sutton is nearly all you think he is, and that is saying worlds in his favour. So no more preaching. Run to your room and make your preparations. Send Burroughs to me, and then return to your guests."

And so the two girls separated: Kate to hurry the preparations for her flight,—to possess herself of her jewels in case of—what? She dared not answer the half-formed question; and Miss Vandervelde to play the hostess until Kate reappeared and said society's conventional adieux to the departing guests.

Burroughs! We have rather neglected that young person lately. Burroughs was both surprised and indignant when her mistress informed her that after Miss Vandervelde had seen her, she could dispense with her services for the remainder of the night. As she had had a harassing day (how nice and considerate of Miss Wilson!) did not she think she had best retire forthwith? She did not think so, for a reason she had; but as she rather feared Miss Vandervelde, she quieted that imperative young lady with a vague kind of promise, and retired to the housekeeper's room to air her awakened suspicions, and finish a flirtation with Jones, the gamekeeper.

"The devil's in the moon for mischief," wrote he whose memory once furnished a tuft-hunting Yankee authoress with a cheap and nasty excuse for airing her aristocratic connections in the old country. Until the particular moment the brougham containing Doctor Sutton emerged from the portals of the Sursingle Arms the moon had sulkily withheld her beams. But she rose from behind a curtain of shaggy cloud as the vehicle rattled along the high street, and revealed to all whom it might concern Matthew Crisp, in his hastily-assumed character of Jehu.

Whether it concerned her or not, Miss Priscilla Cardmums, given, in the interest of the local paper, to courting the muses at unwholesome hours, saw the Doctor's man taking it out of the nag.

"Ah!" she murmured, sighingly, "Doctor Sutton's! Ever pursuing his mission of mercy and love in that high spirit of self-abnegation which so eminently characterises him! How few there are who are imbued with such nobility of soul! Few indeed, alas, few indeed! Ah! Doctor Sutton: had we met ten years since—" The chaise by this time had turned the corner. She stayed not to finish the personal sentence whose beginning was so suggestive, but resumed her pen and attacked the muses with augmented ardour.

Nathan Barjona was innocent of making poetry, and seldom given to its perusal. Even Bernard Barton's gentle strains enthralled him not. Hence his appearance at the window of his bedchamber the while Miss Cardmums was enjoying a moony look-out from hers, was attributable to commonplace causes. The fact is, Nature's soft nurse having, for dyspeptic reasons, declined to steep his senses in forgetfulness, he had betaken him to the window for the purpose of giving one of his senses an astronomical and panoramic treat.

"It is evident," observed night-capped Nathan to himself, as he raised the blind, "that homeopathy is unequal to the task of coping with the peculiarities of my mortal frame. Or, could it be the port? I think not. No, no. It *could not* be the port. What a placid moon! 'Tis almost as light as noonday. Ugh! it's chilly, and there's a thick reek on the far side of the five-acre that tells me this is not a favourable night for one that's troubled with a winter cough. Why, what can that fool Thomas—that I should be led to bestow such an epithet on a fellow-Christian—have been thinking about? He has left the garden gate open. However, the town must be pretty clear of the vagabonds that swarmed to the moor yesterday and to-day, so I will not disturb the house. But to-morrow,—to-morrow, friend Thomas, thou shalt feel the weight of my rebuke, I promise thee."

"No; I am not at all well. I never have been since I differed in opinion with that misguided young man, Sutton. Wheels! Who can it be at this untimely hour? Surely not—yes—no—it is that uncivil fellow Matthew Crisp, and driving as though he meant to break his own neck and the horse's knees. There is someone in the chaise, too: his master. They take the road to Billingham Gimet. No: they pull up; and now they turn off towards the railway station. What *can* it all mean? Ugh! it's intensely cold. I will retire, and to-morrow communicate with Essom. This matter must be investigated."

Said Matthew Crisp to his master when they were quite clear of the suburbs of Heatherthorp, "Mr. Arthur."

"Well, Mat, what's the discovery? some one ahead of us?"

"No, sir, nowt o' that. And I suppose it wadn't fash either on us verra much if there was. Ye didn't happen to get a gliff ov awd Barjona as we passed his house, eh?"

"No, certainly not. Barjona? Nor you either."

"Aw did, though. I saw his dowlly awd head up at bedroom window. And verra pratty it leuk'd iv a woollen neetcap. Ha! ha. All't toon 'll know about our journey as sune as Essom oppens shop."

"Let it!" exclaimed the Doctor, with energy, "what do I care?"

"And why sud ye, Mr. Arthur? 'specially about such a gauvason as awd Barjona. He's like a coo, wi' twa sides to his tung, a rough un and a smooth un; but neeboddy minds him, sir, nae matter which side he licks 'em with."

After enunciating this profound bucolic figure with contemptuous gusto, Crisp relapsed into silence, and again addressed himself to taking it out of Silly's bit of horseflesh.

Loyal to the letter but false to the spirit of her mistress's injunctions was Kate's maid, Miss Martha Burroughs. She was not going to bed till she thought fit. She was sure, indeed! Was she no better than an African slave to be ordered off to bed when her mistress thought proper? Oh dear no! Mrs. Kaye, the housekeeper, and Mr. Jones, the gamekeeper, and Elizabeth Morrell, the still-room maid, might severally and collectively depend upon it, as sure as they were sitting there drinking that port wine negus, there was Something in the wind, and find out what that Something was, she would, before she was many hours older.

Perhaps the negus was too many for Miss Burroughs, or, it may be, that a last sip with Mr. Jones (whose negus had the appearance and odour of gin-hot) was too many for her; but by-and-by she became emotional, and wept freely on Mrs. Kaye's shoulder. She would not care, she said, if Miss Wilson would only treat her with that confidence one lady ought to bestow on another. Then she waxed hilarious, and declared, if Elizabeth would only accompany her, she would see Mr. Jones part of his way home. (Mr. J., it should be observed, was a single man and a thrifty, who had long been credited with a vast

admiration—at a proper distance—of Miss Wilson's maid.) Mrs. Kaye was greatly scandalised by the proposal; but as Burroughs was not to be denied, the old lady at length consented with tolerable grace, and the trio left the Place, Mrs. Kaye having previously promised Elizabeth to sit up until their return.

The last carriage was rattling homeward along the main road; the musicians from Shipley were partaking of a substantial repast in the servants' hall, previous to their trudging to the station with a view to the earliest third-class train; Mrs. Kaye was sleeping soundly, and demonstratively, in her easy-chair, when the two fugitives, our bonny Kate and her friend Sylvia, stepped from one of the drawing-room windows into the garden, hurried thence to the commencement of a foot-path that led to the Heatherthorp entrance to the grounds.

"Oh, Syl," said Kate, "let us go back. I feel ready to drop; I do, indeed; and I tremble all over."

"When you are done trembling, we will proceed. What nonsense! One would think you were going to your execution. Be a woman, Kate.—But there, I will do your bidding. Shall we return? We can—unperceived, too. What say you?"

There was a brief pause, and then Kate, gulping down her emotion with a mighty effort, said, in a low but firm voice, "I am ready."

Sylvia kissed her, and said, "I am sure you have chosen well. You will not regret this night's adventure, believe me."

Just then, as though to hearten her and smile upon her resolve, the moon broke from a thick cloud and flooded with its argent beams the whole country side. Kate accepted the effulgence as a good omen.

"How beautiful! Look, Sylvia, at those long, fantastic, shadows."

"Long fantastic fiddlesticks! Oh? don't linger. We must get among these long, fantastic shadows if we want to escape observation. It is very beautiful, I dare say; but since we are not astronomizing, nor studying light and shade, it would have pleased me better if Lady Luna had, on this occasion, remained in bed. There, we are safe."

They walked on in silence for some minutes, when Kate, clutching Sylvia suddenly by the arm, said, in a whisper—

"Stay! I can hear footsteps."

"Yes; and I can hear voices."

"What *shall* we do?"

"Wait. Can you yet distinguish anything?"

"Yes. Now I can. There are two figures. Surely they are not poachers."

"Poachers!—in petticoats. Calm your apprehensions, my darling. They approach, and I discover in one of these nocturnal wanderers your own maid, Burroughs, and in the other that child, Elizabeth."

"The little still-room maid! Whatever can they be doing away from the Place at this hour?"

"I am not at present anxious to know; but if you will please to conceal yourself in the shadow of this oak, I will teach these silly women a lesson they will not speedily forget."

Whereupon Miss Vandervelde took her cloak, a sensibly-comfortable garment of considerable amplitude, and gathered it deftly about her arms; then, stretching these forth in the form of the letter V, she appeared, as she stood out fairly in the moonlight, as eerie and preternaturally gigantic a figure as could well be conceived. There was not enough wind to stir the lightest leaf, and this singular stillness materially aided the success of the girl's impromptu stratagem. She moved on slowly and stealthily, as yet unmarked by Burroughs and her companion, and Kate for a moment forgot herself and Arthur in the supremely ridiculous ecstasy of the situation. She would have given anything for liberty to laugh, but, as it was, she hardly allowed herself to breathe.

(To be continued.)

SINGULAR CRICKET CLUB ACTION.—At the Westminster County Court, on the 8th inst., the case of Frazer v. Wilde was heard before Mr. Judge Bayley, in which the plaintiff, a barrister, and treasurer of the Ravenspark Cricket Club, sought to recover £7, under the following circumstances:—From the plaintiff's statement it appeared that the defendant was in arrears of his subscription amounting to £2, and that in 1874 the club gave a garden party, for which the defendant took £2 worth of tickets, which had not been paid for, and in December, 1875, the club gave a concert, for which the defendant received £3 worth of tickets, which were to be paid or accounted for. A correspondence between the secretary of the club and the defendant was produced in court, in which the defendant offered to pay the sum of £5 in full off all demands. The defendant, who is in the Foreign Office, through his solicitor, said he was willing to pay £5, but did not think, under the circumstances, his client, as a member of the club, was liable for the tickets supplied.—The learned judge, taking this view of the case, ruled in favour of the plaintiff for £5, with costs.

THE CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB sailed a match on Tuesday for yachts of 20 tons and under, and some capital racing resulted between Dudu and Virago, the sailing of the latter being wonderfully good. The entries were:—Lily, cutter, 10 tons, E. F. Quilter; Mildred, cutter, 10, F. Turner; Zephyr, cutter, 10, A. J. and F. C. Little; Kohinoor, cutter, 10, W. Baden Towel; Dudu, cutter, 15, J. A. Sparvel Bayly; Hebe, cutter, 10, V. Asser; Virago, cutter, 6, L. G. Moore. The two first did not start. Course from Erith round the East Blyth Buoy and back. There was a very light E.S.E. wind when the yachts started at 11.18, Virago getting away first. All set square-headed topsails except Virago and Zephyr, which sent jibheaders aloft. Round the East Blyth Buoy the yachts were timed:—Dudu, 2h 30m 3s; Virago, 2h 39m 33s; Kohinoor, 2h 41m 45s; Hebe, 2h 44m 8s; Zephyr, 2h 56m 29s. All gybed, and with spinnakers set to port ran up to the Lower Hope, where spinnakers were handed, and at the Owens Kohinoor, running past, passed Virago to windward. Soon after this all gybed, Dudu going up past Northfleet before doing so. Between this and Erith the yachts had to gybe several times, Dudu setting her squaresail and going very well, but not fast enough to save the twenty odd minutes she had to allow Virago, which little vessel, after sailing as good a race as ever was seen, won first prize, the timing at the finish being:—Dudu (winner of £7 7s.), 5h 16m 10s; Kohinoor, 5h 29m 20s; Virago (winner of £15 15s.), 5h 30m 45s; Hebe, 5h 33m 50s; Zephyr about 5h 45m. To-day the Prince of Wales Yacht Club sails a match for yachts not over 25 tons.

LAMPLOUGH'S PYRETIC SALINE.—HAVE IT IN YOUR HOUSES, AND USE NO OTHER; this alone is the true antidote in Fevers, Eruptive Affections, Sea or Bilious Sickness, having peculiar and exclusive merits. For the protection of the public against fraudulent imitations I have applied for and again obtained a perpetual injunction, with costs, against a defendant. Observe the GENUINE has my NAME and TRADE MARK on a BUFF-COLOURED WRAPPER.—113, Holborn-nail. London.—[ADVT.]

BUGS, FLEAS, MOTHS, BEETLES, and all other insects are destroyed by KEATING'S INSECT DESTROYING POWDER, which is quite harmless to domestic animals.—Sold in tins 1s. and 2s. 6d. each, by THOMAS KEATING, St. Paul's Church-yard, London, and all Chemists (free by post 14 and 33 stamps).—[ADVT.]

DR. LOCOCK'S PULMONIC WAFERS instantly relieve Coughs, Asthma, Consumption, Bronchitis, Rheumatism, &c. Mr. Lister, 93, Dewsbury-road, Leeds, writes:—"January 18th, 1877.—I have known and sold DR. LOCOCK'S WAFERS for years, and all my customers speak highly of them. Sold by all Druggists at 1s. 1d., 2s. 6d., 4s. 6d., and 11s. per box.—[ADVT.]